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Britain leaves the European Union, leaps into the unknown

By J. LAWLESS/R. CASERT
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, adieu.

With little fanfare, Britain left the European Union on Friday after 47 years of membership, taking a leap into the unknown in a historic blow to the bloc.

The U.K.'s departure became official at 11 p.m. (2300GMT), midnight in Brussels, where the EU is headquartered. Thousands of enthusiastic Brexit supporters gathered outside Britain's Parliament to welcome the moment they'd longed for since Britain's 52%-48% vote in June 2016 to walk away from the club it had joined in 1973. The flag-waving crowd erupted in cheers as Big Ben bonged 11 times — on a recording. Parliament's real bell has been silenced for repairs.

In a message from nearby 10 Downing St., Prime Minister Boris Johnson called Britain's departure "a moment of real national renewal and change."

But many Britons mourned



Brexit supporters celebrate during a rally in London, Friday, Jan. 31, 2020.

Associated Press

the loss of their EU identity, and some marked the passing with tearful vigils.

There was also sadness in

Brussels as British flags were quietly removed from the bloc's many buildings.

Whether Brexit makes Brit-

ain a proud nation that has reclaimed its sovereignty, or a diminished presence in Europe and the world,

will be debated for years to come.

Continued on Page 8




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In this Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020, file photo, passengers board buses after arriving on an airplane carrying U.S. citizens being evacuated from Wuhan, China, at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, Calif.

Associated Press

By AMY TAXIN

Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, California (AP)

— Nearly 200 Americans evacuated from China because of the new virus are "very relieved" to be quarantined at a military base in Southern California for two weeks, one of them said Friday.

"All of us really want to stay

here and make sure we're all medically clear and the public safe," said Matthew L. McCoy, a theme park designer who lives in China. McCoy is among the 195 Americans who returned on a charter flight earlier this week from Wuhan, the Chinese city at the center of the outbreak. Initially, health officials asked them

U.S. evacuees 'relieved' about quarantine on military base

to stay at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside for up to three days of monitoring and testing.

On Friday, the government ordered them into quarantine for two weeks. Health officials believe it can take up to two weeks for someone who is infected to get sick. So far there's been no sign of illness.

It was the first federal order since 1963, when a woman was quarantined after she returned from a trip to Sweden during a smallpox outbreak, and she could not prove that she had been vaccinated.

"We understand this action may seem drastic. We would rather be remem-

bered for overreacting than underreacting," said Dr. Nancy Messonnier of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Later Friday, the government declared a public health emergency and said any other Americans returning to the U.S. from Hubei province, which includes Wuhan, will also be quarantined for two weeks. The State Department is planning more flights to bring Americans out of Wuhan. McCoy lives in Shanghai but got stuck in Wuhan during a business trip when Chinese authorities shut down the city of 11 million people because of the outbreak. Other evacuees include U.S. government employees and their families.

"Everybody was very relieved" about the quarantine order, McCoy said by telephone. "We wanted to make sure all the tests were done first."

At the military base about 60 miles (97 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, the evacu-

ees are staying in hotel-style housing and have spent time walking and exercising, some wearing masks, said Jose Arballo Jr., a spokesman for the county's public health agency.

As of Friday, none of the evacuees had shown signs of illness, he said. The CDC said test results are still coming in for the group; all have been negative so far. One person tried to leave the base Wednesday night and was quarantined by the county. The CDC's Dr. Martin Cetron on Friday said that incident did not drive the decision for the federal quarantine.

McCoy said he's been able to keep up with his work in his room on the base and has hooked his computer up to the television screen. Children are outside playing, and everyone is trying to make the experience as easy as possible for each other, he said.

Another evacuee said he had been hoping to get out over the weekend but was OK with the order. □

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Senate rejects witnesses in Trump trial, ensuring acquittal

By LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER and ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate narrowly rejected Democratic demands to summon witnesses for President Donald Trump's impeachment trial late Friday, all but ensuring Trump's acquittal in just the third such trial to face a president in U.S. history. But senators considered pushing off final voting on his fate to next week.

The vote on allowing new witnesses was defeated 51-49 on a near party-line vote.

Republicans Susan Collins of Maine and Mitt Romney of Utah voted along with the Democrats for witnesses, but that was not enough.

Despite the Democrats singular focus on hearing new testimony, the Republican majority brushed past those demands to make this the first impeachment trial without witnesses. Even new revelations Friday from former national security adviser John Bolton did not sway GOP senators, who said they'd heard enough. That means the eventual outcome for Trump will be an acquittal "in name only," said Rep. Val Demings, D-Fla., a House prosecutor, during final debate. Some called it a cover-up.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer called Friday night's results "a tragedy on a very large scale." Protesters' chants reverberated against the walls of the Capitol.

But Republicans said Trump's acquittal is justified and inevitable.

"The sooner the better for the country," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Trump confidant.

"Let's turn the page."

The next steps come in the heart of presidential campaign season before a divided nation. Democratic caucus voting begins Monday in Iowa, and Trump gives his State of the Union address the next night. Four Democratic candidates have been chafing in the Senate chamber rather than campaigning.



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., right, walks to meet with Senate Republicans on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Jan. 31, 2020, after the Senate voted to not allow witnesses in the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Trump was impeached by the House last month on charges the he abused power and obstructed Congress like no other president has done as he tried to pressure Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden, and then blocked the congressional probe of his actions.

The Democrats had badly wanted testimony from Bolton, whose forthcoming book links Trump directly to the charges. But Bolton won't be summoned, and none of this appeared to affect the trial's expected outcome.

In an unpublished manuscript, Bolton writes that the president asked him during an Oval Office meeting in early May to bolster his effort to get Ukraine to investigate Democrats, according to a person who read the passage and told The Associated Press. The person, who was not authorized to disclose contents of the book, spoke only on condition of anonymity.

In the meeting, Bolton said the president asked him to call new Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and persuade him to meet with Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, who was

planning to go to Ukraine to coax the Ukrainians to investigate the president's political rivals. Bolton writes that he never made the call to Zelenskiy after the meeting, which included acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and White House Counsel Pat Cipollone.

The revelation adds more detail to allegations of when and how Trump first sought to influence Ukraine to aid investigations of his rivals that are central to the abuse of power charge in the first article of impeachment.

The story was first reported Friday by The New York Times.

Trump issued a quick denial.

"I never instructed John Bolton to set up a meeting for Rudy Giuliani, one of the greatest corruption fighters in America and by far the greatest mayor in the history of NYC, to meet with President Zelenskiy," Trump said. "That meeting never happened."

Key Republican senators said even if Trump committed the offenses as charged by the House, they are not impeachable and the partisan proceedings must end.

"I didn't need any more evidence because I thought it was proved that the president did what he was charged with doing," retiring GOP Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, a late holdout, told reporters Friday at the Capitol. "But that didn't rise to the level of an impeachable offense."

Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska said she, too, would oppose more testimony in the charged partisan atmosphere, having "come to the conclusion that there will be no fair trial in the Senate." She said, "The Congress has failed." Eager for a conclusion, Trump's allies nevertheless suggested the shift in timing to extend the proceedings into next week, acknowledging the significance of the moment for senators who want to give final speeches.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell made the offer to Schumer, but it was not yet final.

Under the proposal, the Senate would resume Monday for final arguments, with time Monday and Tuesday for senators to speak. The final voting would be Wednesday.

To bring the trial toward a conclusion, Trump's attorneys argued the House had already heard from 17 witnesses and presented its 28,578-page report to the Senate.

They warned against prolonging it even further after House impeached Trump largely along party lines after less than three months of formal proceedings making it the quickest, most partisan presidential impeachment in U.S. history. Some senators pointed to the importance of the moment.

"What do you want your place in history to be?" asked one of the House managers, Rep. Jason Crow, D-Colo., a former Army Ranger.

Trump is almost assured of eventual acquittal with the Senate nowhere near the 67 votes needed for conviction and removal.

To hear more witnesses, it would have taken four Republicans to break with the 53-seat majority and join with all Democrats in demanding more testimony. But that effort fell short.

Chief Justice John Roberts, in the rare role presiding over the impeachment trial, could break a tie, but that seems unlikely.

Murkowski noted in announcing her decision that she did not want to drag the chief justice into the partisan fray.

Though protesters stood outside the Capitol, few visitors have been watching from the Senate galleries. Bolton's forthcoming book contends he personally heard Trump say he wanted military aid withheld from Ukraine until it agreed to investigate the Bidens. Trump denies saying such a thing.

The White House has blocked its officials from testifying in the proceedings and objected that there are "significant amounts of classified information" in Bolton's manuscript.

Bolton resigned last September — Trump says he was fired — and he and his attorney have insisted the book does not contain any classified information. □



In this April 12, 2019 file photo, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai speaks during an event in Washington.

Associated Press

FCC: At least 1 phone company broke law by sharing location

By **MATT O'BRIEN**
AP Technology Writer

At least one U.S. phone company likely broke the law by sharing data that can pinpoint the location of smartphone users, the Federal Communications Commission said Friday. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a letter to Congress that one or more wireless companies apparently violated federal law and could be subject to penalties. He didn't name any companies but said the commission would decide soon on actions, now that the agency has completed

an investigation. The FCC's enforcement bureau began investigating following 2018 reports that U.S. wireless providers were selling real-time phone location information to outside data aggregation firms without phone users' knowledge or consent. Location-tracking services can use the data to keep tabs on packages and vehicles or create personalized marketing pitches, but it can also be used by bounty hunters or stalkers to identify the whereabouts of nearly any phone in the U.S. within seconds. The reports led the four

major companies, Verizon, AT&T, Sprint and T-Mobile, to pledge to stop providing users' location information to data brokers, stepping back from a business practice that had drawn criticism for endangering privacy. A statement Friday by FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel said the safety and privacy of millions of Americans was at risk and "it's a shame that it took so long for the FCC to reach a conclusion that was so obvious." Rosenworcel is a Democrat; Republicans have a 3-2 majority at the agency. □

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driver in Mar-a-Lago breach**By **TERRY SPENCER**
Associated Press**PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) —**

Law enforcement agents opened fire on an SUV driver who smashed through two security checkpoints at Mar-a-Lago on Friday in what authorities described as the actions of "an obviously impaired" driver but not an intentional attack on President Donald Trump's resort.

The driver, Hannah Roemhild, 30, of Connecticut, who identifies herself on her Facebook page as an opera singer, was later arrested at a nearby motel. No one was injured, authorities said, and Trump was not at the Palm Beach club at the time, although he was scheduled to arrive there later in the day.

Roemhild was not at any time "even remotely close" to getting into the "inner perimeter" of the president's resort, Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said at a news conference.

He said Roemhild, "obviously impaired," was dancing on top of her vehicle outside the Breakers hotel, about 3 miles (5 kilometers) from Mar-a-Lago, when an off-duty Florida Highway Patrol officer who was working hotel security approached her.

Roemhild jumped into the SUV and refused to open the window or acknowledge the officer, Bradshaw said. She then put the car in reverse and began driving away. The trooper smashed the window and tried to grab the steering wheel, but was unable to stop her, the sheriff said.

Roemhild led officers on a high-speed pursuit, at times driving on the wrong side of the road at speeds nearing 70 miles (113 kilometers),

said Major Robert Chandler of the Florida Highway Patrol.

She crashed through one Mar-a-Lago checkpoint then barreled through a second, where Secret Service agents and sheriff's deputies were barely able to avoid being hit before they opened fire, Bradshaw said. The authorities fired numerous rounds, but Roemhild kept driving and was able to get away.

Investigators believe she picked up a female relative before they later located her car using a license plate reader. Roemhild ran from her car outside a nearby motel and was tackled by a trooper, Bradshaw said.

Later Friday, the SUV could be seen in the motel's parking lot, with both the driver's side window and the rear window completely shattered. The parking lot was lined with red police tape and law enforcement vehicles surrounded the property.

Bradshaw said Roemhild did not appear to have a criminal record. After Friday's events, she was going to be charged with assault on a federal officer, deadly assault on two sheriff's deputies and traffic charges, he said.

Mar-a-Lago has been the scene of several intrusions since Trump became president. On Jan. 5, just hours after Trump and his family had left the club following a two-week vacation, a Florida man who had been dishonorably discharged from the Marines for sex offenses was arrested after he got past two checkpoints. He had falsely identified himself as part of the president's helicopter crew. In March 2019, Chinese na-

tional Yujing Zhang gained access to Mar-a-Lago while carrying a laptop, phones and other electronic gear. That led to initial speculation that the 33-year-old businesswoman from Shanghai might be a spy, but she was never charged with espionage.

Text messages she exchanged with a trip organizer indicated she was a fan of the president and wanted to meet him or his family to discuss possible deals.

Zhang was found guilty of trespassing and lying to Secret Service agents and was sentenced to time served.

In December, the club's security officers confronted



A forensic technician works on the vehicle authorities say officers fired shots at, that breached security at President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Friday, Jan. 31, 2020, in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

Jing Lu, 56, for trespassing and told her to leave, but she returned to take photos. Lu was charged with

loitering and resisting an officer without violence after taking photos by entering a service entrance. □

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Trump curbs immigrants from 6 nations in election-year push

By COLLEEN LONG and NO-
MAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration announced Friday that it was restricting immigrants from six additional countries that officials said failed to meet minimum security standards, as part of an election-year push to further clamp down immigration. Officials said immigrants from Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Eritrea, Nigeria, Sudan and Tanzania will face new restrictions in obtaining certain visas to come to the United States. But it is not a total travel ban, unlike President Donald Trump's earlier effort that generated outrage around the world for targeting Muslims. Trump signed a proclamation on the restrictions Friday; they go into effect Feb. 21.

The announcement came as Trump tries to promote his crackdown on immigration, highlighting a signature issue that motivated supporters in 2016 and hoping it has the same effect this November.

The administration recently announced birth tourism restrictions, is touting the sharp decline in crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border and citing progress on building the border wall.

"It is fundamental to national security, and the height of common sense, that if a foreign nation wishes to receive the benefits of immigration and travel to the United States, it must satisfy basic security conditions outlined by America's law enforcement and intelligence professionals," the White House said in a statement.

Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Eritrea and Nigeria would have all immigrant visas suspended; those are applicants seeking to live in the U.S. permanently. They include visas for people sponsored by family members or employers as well as the diversity visa program that made up to 55,000 visas available in the most recent lottery. In December, for example, 40,666 immigrant visas were granted

worldwide. Sudan and Tanzania will have diversity visas suspended. The State Department uses a com-

ing to the Pew Research Center. Omar Jadwat, director of the American Civil Liberties

were able to comply with the new standards in time. "These countries for the most part want to be help-

Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on."

The seven countries in the ban include nations with little or no diplomatic relationship to the U.S. and five majority-Muslim nations: Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen.

Wolf said immigrant visas were chosen because people with those visa are the most difficult to remove after arriving in the United States.

The initial ban was immediately blocked by the courts and led to a monthslong process to develop clear standards and federal review processes to try to withstand legal muster.

Wolf said officials examined countries for compliance with minimum standards for identification and information-sharing, and assessed whether countries properly tracked terrorism or public safety risks.

Officials looked at whether countries used modern passports, shared information that the U.S. could validate on travelers and identified possible criminal suspects in a way that the U.S. could see before entry. They evaluated responses and ranked nations.

Government agencies then discussed whether countries had different, but important, contacts with the U.S. and then decided on restrictions.

"Really the only way to mitigate the risk is to impose these travel restrictions," Wolf said.

The announcement had been expected around the third anniversary of the Jan. 27, 2017, enactment of the first order.

David Bier, an immigration policy analyst with the Cato Institute, a Libertarian think tank, said the expansion had no foundation and had "even less of a rational basis than all its prior iterations."

"This list of nations has no foundation in the security factors on which it was supposed to be based," he said. "It's just another arbitrary exercise designed to keep out legal immigrants." □



In this Sept. 2017 file photo, a flag is waved outside the White House, in Washington.

Associated Press

puter drawing to select people from around the world for up to 55,000 diversity visas. Nigeria is already excluded from the lottery along with other countries that had more than 50,000 natives immigrate to the U.S. in the previous five years.

Nonimmigrant visas were not affected — awarded to those traveling to the U.S. for a temporary stay. They include visas for tourists, those doing business or people seeking medical treatment. During December, for example, about 650,760 nonimmigrant visas were granted worldwide.

The new restrictions were swiftly met with criticism from immigrant advocates who slammed them as a new Muslim ban.

Sudan and Kyrgyzstan are majority-Muslim countries. Nigeria, the seventh-most populous nation in the world with more than 200 million people, is about evenly split between Christians and Muslims but has the world's fifth-largest population of Muslims, accord-

Union Immigrants' Rights Project, said the previous visa restrictions should not be expanded.

"President Trump is doubling down on his signature anti-Muslim policy — and using the ban as a way to put even more of his prejudices into practice by excluding more communities of color," he said.

"Families, universities, and businesses in the United States are paying an ever-higher price for President Trump's ignorance and racism."

Rumors swirled for weeks about a potential new ban, and initially Belarus was considered. But Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was headed to the Eastern European nation as the restrictions were announced, and Belarus was not on the list.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said Homeland Security officials would work with the countries on bolstering their security requirements to help them work to get off the list. Wolf said some nations

ful, they want to do the right thing, they have relationships with the U.S., but for a variety of different reasons failed to meet those minimum requirements," Wolf said.

The current restrictions follow Trump's travel ban, which the Supreme Court upheld as lawful in 2018. They are significantly softer than Trump's initial ban, which had suspended travel from Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen for 90 days, blocked refugee admissions for 120 days, and suspended travel from Syria. The government suspended most immigrant and nonimmigrant visas to applicants from those countries. Exceptions are available for students and those with "significant contacts" in the U.S.

Trump has said a travel ban is necessary to protect Americans. But opponents have argued that he seeks to target Muslim countries, pointing to comments he made as a candidate in 2015 calling for a "total and complete shutdown of

Senator wants probe of Hawaii FAA office after 3 crashes

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLER and TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A whistleblower has told a Senate committee that a manager in the Federal Aviation Administration's Hawaii field office improperly let a helicopter tour company owner certify pilots for flight on behalf of the agency. The owner then approved a pilot, who was at the controls 10 days later in April 2019 when a company aircraft crashed, killing all three people on board. The allegation and others about managers at the Hawaii office, prompted a key senator to ask the Transportation Department's Inspector General for an investigation. Novictor Aviation has been involved in three crashes during the past two years, according to a Jan. 24 letter from Sen. Roger Wicker, a Mississippi Republican who chairs the Transportation Committee. Two whistleblowers allege an inappropriately close relationship between FAA

managers and Novictor. An FAA manager, in an interview Friday with The Associated Press, said the allegation that he improperly granted "check airman" status to Novictor's owner was incorrect. He accused the whistleblower of "making up stories again." Allegations raised by the whistleblowers also include managers directing that investigative reports be altered, and management retaliation against an employee who reported the problems, according to the letter from Wicker to Inspector General Calvin Scovel III. The committee says in a fact sheet on the case that its own investigation isn't complete, but it "raises significant concerns about the efficacy of FAA oversight in Hawaii." The FAA said Friday that it has been investigating on its own and already is taking steps to address problems that have been substantiated. It pledged to cooperate with Scovel's office.

Alabama college opens home for Amistad slave ship murals

By JAY REEVES
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — A historically black college in Alabama is unveiling a new home for murals that depict a famous revolt by African captives aboard a slave-trading ship more than 180 years ago. Talladega College on Friday was scheduled to dedicate a new museum that will hold paintings which illustrate the story of the Amistad mutiny. Commissioned by the college in 1938 and painted by artist Hale Woodruff, the murals hung in the campus library for nearly seven decades until they were removed for restoration and a national tour in 2008. Worth about \$50 million, according to the college, the three paintings will now be the centerpiece of a new campus exhibit. "The murals are seen ... as a hidden jewel, but now it's no longer a hidden jewel," said Seddrick Hill, vice president of institutional advancement, in a video released by the college. "We have another reason to come to this wonderful city and explore this artwork, which means so much to a lot of people." Located about 50 miles (80 kilometers) east of Birmingham, Talladega College is a private, four-year school that is affiliated with the United Church of Christ. It was founded in 1867, two years after the end of the Civil War, by the descendants of slaves. □



In this April 29, 2019 file photo, a portion of the tail section of a helicopter is shown after crashing in Kailua, Hawaii.

Associated Press

The probe isn't the first time the FAA has been accused of being too cozy with aviation companies that it regulates. Legislators have said the agency gave too much inspection authority to Boeing Co. when it certified the 737 Max passenger jet to be able to fly. The plane has since been grounded after crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia that killed 346 people. In June 2019, an FAA employee alleged misconduct by managers in the flight standards district office in Honolulu, saying that managers too frequently overrode recommendations of inspectors, according to the fact sheet. A second employee contacted the committee in

December with further allegations. The employee, Joseph Monfort — who the fact sheet said agreed to be publicly identified — alleged "some managers in the Hawaii FAA office have an inappropriately close relationship with Novictor Aviation, a helicopter tour operator in Hawaii." In November 2018, local FAA management revoked Novictor's letter of authorization to operate under less restrictive regulations, citing the company's accident history and lack of verifiable safety measures. Monfort's front line manager, Daret Kanayama, improperly granted check airman authority to Novictor's owner and operator, Nicole Vandelaar, accord-

ing to the fact sheet. A check airman has the power to certify pilots for flight on the FAA's behalf. In April, a Novictor tour helicopter crashed on a residential street outside Honolulu, killing all three on board. "Mr. Monfort began an investigation into the crash, which revealed that Ms. Vandelaar had received her check airman certification from Mr. Kanayama improperly," the fact sheet said. "According to Mr. Monfort, Ms. Vandelaar was improperly certified to administer check rides on behalf of the FAA, but subsequently gave a check ride to the pilot involved in the April 29th crash 10 days before the accident." □



Britain leaves the European Union, leaps into the unknown

Continued from Front

While Britain's exit is a historic moment, it only marks the end of the first stage of the Brexit saga. When Britons wake up on Saturday, they will notice very little change. The U.K. and the EU have given themselves an 11-month "transition period" — in which the U.K. will continue to follow the bloc's rules — to strike new agreements on trade, security and a host of other areas.

The now 27-member EU will have to bounce back from one of its biggest setbacks in its 62-year history to confront an ever more complicated world as its former member becomes a competitor, just across the English Channel.

French President Emmanuel Macron called Brexit a "historic alarm signal" that should force the EU to improve itself.

"It's a sad day, let's not hide it," he said in a televised address. "But it is a day that must also lead us to do things differently."

He insisted that European citizens need a united Europe "more than ever," to defend their interests in the face of China and the United States, to cope with climate change and migration and technological upheaval. In the many EU buildings of Brussels on Friday, British flags were quietly lowered, folded and taken away. This is the first time a country has left the EU, and many in the bloc rued the day. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen lamented that "as the sun rises tomorrow, a new chapter for our union of 27 will start."

But she warned Brexit day would mark a major loss for the U.K. and said the island nation was heading for a lonelier existence.

"Strength does not lie in splendid isolation, but in our unique union," she said. Johnson insisted post-Brexit Britain would be "simultaneously a great European power and truly global in our range and ambitions."

"We want this to be the beginning of a new era of



Brexit supporters gather during a rally in London, Friday, Jan. 31, 2020.

Associated Press

friendly cooperation between the EU and an energetic Britain," Johnson said in a pre-recorded address to the country broadcast an hour before Britain's exit. In a break with usual practice, independent media outlets were not allowed to film Johnson's speech, which the government recorded Thursday at 10 Downing St.

Johnson won an election victory in December with a dual promise to "get Brexit done" and deliver improved jobs, infrastructure and services for Britain's most deprived areas, where support for leaving the EU is strongest. On Friday, he symbolically held a Cabinet meeting in the pro-Brexit town of Sunderland in northeast England, rather than in London.

Johnson is a Brexit enthusiast, but he knows many Britons aren't, and his Conservative government sought to mark the moment with quiet dignity. Red, white and blue lights illuminated government buildings and a countdown clock projected onto the prime minister's Downing Street residence.

There was no such restraint in nearby Parliament Square, where arch-Brexitite Nigel Farage gathered a crowd of several thousand, who belted out the patriotic song "Land of Hope and Glory" as they

waited for the moment that even Farage sometimes doubted would ever come.

"This is the single most important moment in the modern history of our great nation," Farage told the crowd.

"The war is over," said Farage, who often describes Britain's relationship with Europe in martial terms. "We have won."

Londoner Donna Jones said she had come to "be part of history."

"It doesn't mean we're anti-Europe, it just means we want to be self-sufficient in a certain way," she said.

But Britons who cherished their membership in the bloc — and the freedom it bought to live anywhere across of 28 countries — were mourning.

"Many of us want to just mark our sadness in public," said Ann Jones, who joined dozens of other remainers on a march to the EU's mission in London.

"And we don't want trouble, we just want to say, well you know, we didn't want this."

Britain's journey to Brexit has been long, rocky — and far from over.

The U.K. was never a wholehearted EU member, but actually leaving the bloc was long considered a fringe idea. It gradually gained strength within the Conservative Party, which

has a wing of fierce "euroskeptics" — opponents of EU membership. Former Prime Minister David Cameron eventually agreed to hold a referendum, saying he wanted to settle the issue once and for all.

It hasn't worked out that way. Since the 2016 vote, the U.K. has held fractious negotiations with the EU that finally, late last year, secured a deal on divorce terms. But Britain is leaving the bloc arguably as divided as it was on referendum day.

By and large, Britain's big cities voted to stay in the EU, while small towns voted to leave. England and Wales backed Brexit, while Northern Ireland and Scotland voted to remain.

Candlelit vigils were held in several Scottish cities, government buildings in Edinburgh were lit up in the EU's blue and yellow colors, and the bloc's flag continued to fly outside the Scottish Parliament.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said Brexit was "a moment of profound sadness."

"And here in Scotland, given that it is happening against the will of the vast majority of us, that sadness will be tinged with anger," she said in a speech in Edinburgh.

Sturgeon's Scottish National Party government is demanding the right to hold a

referendum on independence from the U.K., something Johnson refuses to grant.

London, which is home to more than 1 million EU citizens, also voted by a wide margin to stay in the bloc. Mayor Sadiq Khan said he was "heartbroken" about Brexit. But he insisted London would remain that welcomed all, regardless of "the color of your skin, the color of your flag, the color of your passport."

Negotiations between Britain and the EU on their new relationship are due to start in earnest in March, and the early signs are not encouraging. The EU says Britain can't have full access to the EU's single market unless it follows the bloc's rules, but Britain insists it will not agree to follow an EU rule book in return for unfettered trade.

With Johnson adamant he won't extend the transition period beyond Dec. 31, months of uncertainty and acrimony lie ahead.

In the English port of Dover, just 20 miles (32 kilometers) across the Channel from France, retiree Philip Barry said he was confident it would all be worth it.

"My expectation is that there may be a little bump or two in the road but in the end it will even out," he said. "Somebody once said: short-term pain but long-term gain." □

Pompeo plays clean-up in Ukraine as Trump trial nears end

By MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — As the Senate lurched toward a vote to acquit President Donald Trump on impeachment charges, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo played clean-up in the country at the center of the inquiry on Friday.

Visiting Ukraine, Pompeo denied the main allegations that prompted the investigation, contradicting witness testimony that Trump withheld critical military aid and a coveted visit to the White House for the nation's leader in exchange for a corruption investigation into a political rival.

In Kyiv, Pompeo also sought to distance himself from heated comments he reportedly made to a radio interviewer last weekend in which he questioned whether Americans actually care about Ukraine. He said Americans value and respect Ukraine as a "bulwark" against authoritarianism.

Pompeo met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy just hours before the Senate was to cast crucial votes that could lead to an abrupt end and acquittal in Trump's trial. Democrats accuse Trump of withholding American security aid as leverage to pressure Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and debunked theories of 2016 election interference. Several witnesses at House impeachment hearings testified about the link, but Pompeo, a loyal Trump ally, denied the allegations.

"It's just simply not the case. We will find the right time, we will find the appropriate opportunity" for a visit by Zelenskiy, Pompeo said at a press conference after meeting with the Ukrainian leader. Pompeo had not been expected to announce a White House visit while in Ukraine.

Pompeo is the highest-ranking American official to visit Ukraine since the impeachment process began last year. That process started with revelations

about a July 25 phone call between Zelenskiy and Trump.

Ukraine is eager for good relations with Trump as it depends heavily on U.S. support to defend itself from Russian-backed separatists. Although the military assistance was put on hold, it was eventually released after a whistleblower complaint brought the July 25 call to light. The Trump administration has also supplied Ukraine with lethal defense equipment, including Javelin anti-tank weapons. The furor over impeachment had, at the least, complicated discussions about Ukraine policy and had also caused strains between Pompeo and American diplomats, who expressed concerns he was not doing enough to support them during the controversy.

Yet Zelenskiy maintained impeachment had not had a negative effect on U.S.-Ukraine relations and thanked the Trump administration for its financial and military support. And Pompeo sought to reassure diplomats at the embassy in Kyiv at a closed-door "meet and greet" event.

A senior U.S. official in the meeting said Pompeo and Zelenskiy mainly discussed investment and infrastructure and that there was no talk of impeachment or corruption investigations. The official was not authorized to publicly discuss the private conversation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ukraine has been a delicate subject for Pompeo, who last weekend lashed out at a National Public Radio reporter for asking why he has not publicly defended the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch. She was removed from her post after unsubstantiated allegations were made against her by Trump's personal attorney, Rudolph Giuliani.

In the NPR interview, Pompeo took umbrage when asked if he owed Yovanovitch an apology, and maintained that he had defended all of his employ-

ees. In an angry encounter after the interview, he also questioned if Americans actually cared about Ukraine, according to NPR. Pompeo's comments at the news conference appeared aimed at making amends for the reported comment, assuring Zelenskiy of Washington's continued support.

"The United States sees that the Ukrainian struggle for freedom, democracy and prosperity is a valiant one. Our commitment to support it will not waver," he said.

"The United States understands that Ukraine is an important country. It's not just the geographic heart of Europe, it's a bulwark between freedom and



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, center, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Vadym Prystaiko, left, and Metropolitan Epifaniy, head of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, take part in a ceremony at the memorial to Ukrainian soldiers, who were killed in a recent conflict in the country's eastern regions, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Friday Jan. 31, 2020.

Associated Press

authoritarianism in eastern Europe. Its fields feed the European continent and its pipelines keep Europe warm in the winter," he said. □



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Iraqi cleric condemns use of force, 11 protesters wounded

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
and SAMYA KULLAB

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's most powerful religious figure, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, reiterated Friday his condemnation of the use of force against anti-government protesters as the mass movement enters a critical juncture and political blocs tussle over naming a new premier.

Separately, at least four rockets landed around an airbase hosting U.S. troops in northern Iraq without any casualties, Iraqi military officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media.

Meanwhile, an influential and radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr called for his followers to return to the street, one week after he withdrew support for anti-government demonstrators camped out in Baghdad's Tahrir Square. The move comes one day before a deadline set by Iraq's president to select the next prime minister runs out.

Al-Sistani's comments came as unrest continued in Baghdad's Khilani and Wathba squares, where at least 11 demonstrators were wounded Friday by security forces firing tear gas canisters to disperse crowds, according to se-



A police officer carries a pellet air rifle during clashes with anti-government protesters in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, Jan. 31, 2020.

curity and medical officials. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The area has become a flash point in the recent escalation staged by demonstrators to refocus public attention on the demands of the four-month protest movement after a U.S. airstrike that killed a top Iranian general in Baghdad monopolized Iraqi politics. Protesters had called for 1 million Iraqis to take to the streets Friday to revitalize demonstrations and pressure the government to implement a reform agenda after al-Sadr withdrew

his followers from the street last week. Al-Sadr's pullout was followed by a security crackdown on protest camps. Tents were burned and at least four protesters were killed in Baghdad and Iraq's south.

In an apparent reversal of position, al-Sadr issued a statement calling on his followers to "renew" the demonstrations and return to the street, amid deadlock over the naming of a new prime minister. He said large demonstrations were necessary to pressure political elites to form a new "non-controversial" government and hold early elec-

tions.

Dozens of his followers soon streamed into the Tahrir square carrying blankets and furniture and re-erecting tents, activists and security officials said. Officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

A statement from the Baghdad Operations Command said security forces "charged with protecting protesters" in Khilani Square had been attacked by a hand grenade, leading to four injured.

"Our forces continue to exercise the highest levels of restraint despite these repeated attacks on them," the statement said.

Al-Sadr is the head of political bloc Saeroon, which won the most seats in Iraq's 2018 federal election but not enough to secure a commanding majority in Iraq's parliament. Outgoing prime minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi, who resigned in December under pressure from protesters, came to power under a political agreement struck between Saeroon and rival bloc Fatah, headed by Hadi al-Ameri.

For two months, negotiations between the divided factions have been deadlocked and al-Sadr has routinely drawn on his ability to mobilize his followers as leverage. President Barham Saleh has given the parties

until Saturday to name a candidate or he would do so himself.

Analysts and Iraqi officials said al-Sadr's about-face was designed to ensure political elites selected his choice of candidate as the clock ticks on Saleh's deadline.

"He is reasserting his populist credentials and his position in the protest movement," said Fanar Haddad, senior research fellow at the Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore. "He wants to rally his base, mend some recently damaged fences and raise the pressure on his political rivals as the stalemate over government formation continues."

Al-Sadr's departure last week had created clear divisions between his followers and other anti-government protesters in the square.

"All those who are already in protest squares are your brothers," al-Sadr's statement said. "Never be divided in slogans, sayings or deeds."

At least four rockets struck Qayara air base in Nineveh province which hosts U.S. troops, but caused no casualties, Iraqi army officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media.

A statement from Iraq's military said five rockets had landed in the vicinity of the base.

It is the latest attack to target American interest since mortars struck the American embassy last Sunday, wounding one. Tensions soared after the U.S. strike that killed top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani on Iraqi soil.

Tehran retaliated for the killing by launching a barrage of missiles on two Iraqi military bases hosting American troops.

Al-Sistani reaffirmed his condemnation of the use of violence against demonstrators in his weekly sermon, delivered in the holy city of Karbala through a representative. Al-Sistani's opinion holds sway over many Iraqis and elites. □

Dutch government plans to ban some forms of fireworks

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Dutch government plans to ban the sale of most fireworks in a bid to rein in injuries and attacks on emergency service workers during unruly New Year's Eve celebrations, Prime Minister Mark Rutte said Friday.

The ban, which must be approved by parliament, would cover firecrackers and rockets, which have in recent years been thrown or fired at police, ambulance staff and firefighters responding to incidents on New

Year's Eve. "The ban is necessary because the most recent year's end again did not go well," the government said in a statement explaining its decision. "There was an unacceptable level of injury and incidents and the number of incidents of violence against police hasn't been so high in five years."

Dutch customers spend millions of euros on fireworks in the days leading up to end of year celebrations and then set them off in the streets.

Eye doctors regularly report serious injuries caused by fireworks around New Year's Eve. Opposition has grown in recent years to the tradition and some cities already have introduced firework-free zones on New Year's Eve. People will still be allowed to buy small decorative pyrotechnics. However, some people already visit other countries to buy and smuggle back into the Netherlands more powerful firecrackers than the ones sold here. □



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In this image provided by the Turkish Military, members of Turkish forces, left, carry migrants collapsed on the floor of the boat, rescued from aboard an inflatable dinghy in the mid Mediterranean Sea, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020.

Associated Press

Rights groups to Italy: Don't renew migrant deal with Libya

ROME (AP) — Human rights advocates and aid groups slammed Italy on Friday for deciding to extend a deal that facilitates the return of Europe-bound migrants to detention centers in Libya where detainees are at risk for getting raped and tortured.

Amnesty International said the Italian government's plan to renew the deal for another three years on Sunday makes it "complicit in this abuse."

A 2017 accord between Italy and Libya included equipment and training for the Libyan coast guard to intercept migrants who set off in smugglers' boats from the shores of the Northern African country.

Migrants who get caught are returned to overcrowd-

ed detention facilities. U.N. refugee officials have said that migrants held in the centers are frequently beaten, raped and denied adequate food.

Doctors Without Borders, which with another humanitarian group operates a ship that rescues migrants from the Mediterranean Sea, joined the chorus of objections to the deal's renewal. It said Italy's aid contributes to trapping "innocent and vulnerable" people in war-ravaged Libya.

The human rights commissioner for the Council of Europe, Dunja Mijatovic, on Friday expressed "regret that Italian authorities have not scrapped that agreement or — as a minimum — changed its terms."

Citing the worsening armed conflict between rival governments in Libya, she said "a great amount of evidence continues to point to serious human rights violations faced there by migrants and asylum-seekers."

Mijatovic called on Italy and other countries that are members of the Council of Europe, a human rights body based in France, to work for the release of people detained in the Libyan centers and to facilitate the creation of safe transfers of migrants to Europe known as "humanitarian corridors."

Italy, together with Catholic groups, for example, have arranged for flights to Rome of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. □



In this June 28, 2013 file photo, the Blue Nile river flows near the site of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam near Assosa, Ethiopia.

Associated Press

3 African nations resolve issues ahead of filling Nile dam

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Officials from Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan said Friday they have cleared the way for the filling and operation of a \$5 billion dam project on the Nile River.

In a joint statement issued after four days of talks in Washington, the foreign ministers and water resources officials said they had agreed on a schedule for filling the dam, and other key issues.

The final deal is expected to be signed by the three countries by the end of February after the agreement is reviewed, the statement said.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, is around 70% completed and will supply much-needed electricity to Ethiopia's more than 100 million people. However, Egyptian officials have raised concerns that

filing the reservoir behind the dam too quickly could significantly reduce the amount of Nile water available to Egypt.

In addition to setting a schedule for filling the dam's reservoir, the officials discussed developing a system for filling the reservoir during a drought or prolonged dry periods and establishing guidelines for operating the dam during such periods.

"The ministers reaffirmed the importance of transboundary cooperation in the development of the Blue Nile to improve the lives of the people of Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan," the officials said in their statement.

In addition to the officials from the three nations, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and World Bank President David Malpass also participated in the discussions. □

Venezuela's Guaidó angles for Trump meeting at end of trip

By SCOTT SMITH

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó wraps up an international tour with a rally in Miami on Super Bowl weekend with the looming question whether the opposition leader can score an important meeting with President Donald Trump.

Guaidó's ability to win face time with Trump in a symbolically important meeting will test the young political leader's standing with his most important international ally.

"If Trump does not meet with Guaidó, that would raise serious questions about the administration's continuing commitment to Venezuela's interim president," said Michael Shifter, president of the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue think tank. "It might well be interpreted that Trump is hedging on Guaidó."

With his support down at home, Guaidó launched the second year of his so-



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, right, and interim President of Venezuela Juan Guaidó shake hands before a meeting at Trudeau's Parliament Hill office in Ottawa, Ontario, Monday, Jan. 27, 2020.

Associated Press

far unsuccessful campaign to remove President Nicolás Maduro by defying a travel ban and slipping out of Venezuela seeking

to shore up backing from leaders in Colombia, across Europe and Canada.

Venezuela has been a top priority in Latin America for the Trump administration, which was a year ago the first among nearly 60 governments to throw their weight behind Guaidó. U.S. officials called Maduro a "dictator," and hit the state-run Venezuelan oil firm PDVSA with sanctions among other financial measures designed to push out the socialist leader.

However, Maduro remains in control, having faced down a coup attempt, a brief renewal of mass anti-government protests and U.S. sanctions.

At various stops on his international trip, Guaidó has met with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and White House adviser Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter, but he hasn't yet gotten to the U.S. president. He missed Trump at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, arriving a day after the U.S. president left. The two will both be in Florida this weekend, but it is unclear whether Guaidó is on the guest list for Trump's Super Bowl par-

ty at his Mar-a-Lago club — or invited to any other meetings.

A Trump-Guaidó meeting is under consideration and would likely take place this weekend in south Florida, according to two people, including a senior U.S. official. The official and another person familiar with the discussions spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the U.S. president's plans.

Shifter said the lack of a Trump-Guaidó session would demoralize the Venezuelan opposition that has counted on Washington for unwavering support. It would also be puzzling to U.S. allies like Colombia and Brazil, which have worked in concert with the U.S. in fully backing Guaidó, he said.

Guaidó has not delivered the change in Venezuela the Trump administration and the country's opposition expected, but he is still Venezuela's most popular political figure, Shifter said.

"Trump may be frustrated and believe he was misled on Venezuela," Shifter said. "But there is little cost in meeting with Guaidó as

the democratic struggle enters a new, very difficult, phase." Guaidó emerged from the opposition in January 2019 to become the first viable challenger in years to Maduro, the hand-chosen successor of the late charismatic leader Hugo Chávez. The economy continues to shrink after two decades of socialist rule, despite Venezuela holding the world's largest oil reserves.

The political and social crisis is driving mass migration as Venezuelans abandon a country with shortages of reliable water, food, electricity, gasoline and medical care, among basic services. Guaidó claimed presidential powers as leader of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, vowing before cheering masses in Caracas' streets to overthrow Maduro and restore democracy. However, his plan hitched on flipping the military's loyalty from Maduro, something that hasn't happened.

Maduro today appears emboldened. Armed civilian groups loyal to the president patrol the streets on motorcycles, blocking Guaidó and allied lawmakers from entering their legislative hall. Intelligence police occupied Guaidó's office space after he left on his foreign tour.

"The biggest clown ever in Venezuelan or world politics declared himself as president," Maduro said in a celebratory address on the anniversary of Guaidó claim to power. "Who the hell elected you?"

At the time, Guaidó was in Europe posing for photos with world leaders including British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. In Canada, he met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Guaidó wrote an op-ed published Thursday in the Miami Herald saying he was in the U.S. He thanked Trump, U.S. lawmakers and their counterparts in Europe and throughout the Americas for all they have done for Venezuela. □



People look at the remains of a bus that crashed in Inca Chaca, outskirts of La Paz, Bolivia, Friday, Jan. 31, 2020.

Associated Press

Bus crash kills 14 people in Bolivia

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — A bus missed a curve on a road near Bolivia's capital on Friday and plunged down a ravine, killing at least 15 people and injuring 19 more, officials said.

Local fire department chief Ismael Villca told Erbol radio that the bus was a half hour out of the capital half an hour earlier en route from the northern town of Coripata.

It was the third serious accident of the week in Bolivia. A small bus collided with a cargo truck on Tuesday, killing 14 people west of La Paz, while a bus and truck collided on a road to the Uyuni salt flats in southwestern Bolivia, killing three. □

LOCAL



An interactive artwork created by re-known artists Renaissance Aruba reveals art installation

ORANJESTAD — The biggest interactive art installation created by artists Emily Strauss, Victoria Przetak, Francesca Quintaino and Tim Rowan of Mural Painters Inc. has been installed recently at the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino.

The five story high centerpiece is installed in the atrium of the Renaissance Marina Hotel, complementing the remodeling and renovation program supported by Dash Design, the specialists in visual art and integrated visions. Bryan Dodson and Michelle Dodson of Integrated Visions were in charge of putting the design on a projector for the artist to elaborate it completely.

The 23 feet wide by 58 feet tall work of art is completely handmade and carries the



title of 'Turbulent Tranquility'. It was created with latex painting on water base and accompanied by a 4 WUXGA laser projector, 6000 ANSI lumens, and in-

teractive lenses to offer the visitor a dynamic and transcendental experience. The projectors will be using lights and multi-dimensional that will create an illusion

pattern.

"We wanted to introduce an experience that is not attached to time and unique at the same time," stated Paul Gielen, Gener-

al Manager of the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino. "In the meantime we continue beautifying and elevating our resort from the rooms to events. We got the opportunity to work with the visionary and creative team of Dash Design and Integrated Visions in order to create something completely new and that will change our way of interacting with our guests in the future."

The combination of technology and art will create a new platform for the guests and groups that want to organize an event at the Renaissance Aruba from corporate events to destination weddings to local art exhibitions and musical presentations. The artwork at the atrium will activate and amplify unforgettable moments taking place at the resort. □

Panorea Pavloglou loves Aruba's warm and friendly people

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor one of Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as a Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honoree was **Panorea Pavloglou** from Massachusetts, USA.

This lovely lady stated that she loves the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety and Aruba's warm and friendly people who became like family to her.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Aruba Beach Club presented the certificate to the honoree, handed over some presents and also thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination and as her home-away-from-home. □





ORANJESTAD — Members of the Aruba Timeshare Association, ATSA, enjoyed a networking opportunity over cocktails followed by delicious cuisine offerings recently, celebrating the end of a successful 2019 and the beginning of a hopeful 2020.

Party host, Luigi Heredia, at the helm of the organization, the General Manager of Costa Linda Beach Resort, greeted guests on the bar deck, on the beach at Amsterdam Manor. Having enjoyed a Kir Royale welcome flute, and a warm welcome by Heredia, party-goers proceeded to Passions on the Beach where round tables were set in the sand for a sumptuous dinner created by executive chef Gerard Coste, featuring a generous tasting of the restaurant's signature dishes.

Standing in front of a tightly-knit circle of ATSA col-

leagues and friends, Heredia acknowledged it was a busy but fruitful year. Aruba's Vacation Ownership resorts continued to deliver memorable experiences to loyal repeat guests and maintained their considerable share of the island's room inventory, contributing significantly to GDP. For the coming year it is the organization's goal to create a handbook, outlining the role of the industry in Aruba. The handbook

will be prepared in collaboration with the University of Aruba, and will be based on an earlier 2016 version, already published and endorsed by the organization. It is the hope of ATSA that by creating a comprehensive text book, educated young Arubans will be compelled to join the industry which offers many personal growth opportunities, as many as those offered by the traditional transient hotels.



ATSA New Year Celebration



The vacation ownership industry, remarked Heredia, is often underestimated here, yet it is admired on other islands.

The organization will also devote more time to a desired name change to Vacation Ownership, a more appropriate term in the new millennium.

ATSA also wrote a co-promotion with the Aruba Tourism Authority into its first-quarter action-plan as the mature industry is looking to exploit more fresh opportunities in hospitality, and change its image to a more dynamic one.

With 15 resort members and 4 non resort members, Aruba's Vacation Ownership on the Caribbean's #1 destination, in the Interval exchange network,

is proud of its owners, who have supported One Happy Island through thick and thin, through unfortunate personal tragedies, public relations debacle, and global economic slumps. They are a constant, as they keep coming back to their beloved island.

No other island in the Caribbean may claim that, Heredia stated, it is unique to Aruba and a source of envy to many.

Heredia concluded by saying that as long as the island is assured sufficient airlift, and as long as it continues to reinvent itself, offering new products, protecting the environment, and seeking sustainable alternatives, it will enjoy a prosperous 2020, and all the other years thereafter. □

Aruba Today and Bon Dia mentioned as reliable Aruba news

ORANJESTAD — CaribMedia is a web development, software development and internet marketing company, with a solid reputation based on professionalism and quality since 1997. In their blog that informs our visitors about the what's and where's on the island they mention Aruba Today and Bon Dia Aruba as reliable news media.

<https://www.caribmedia.com/blog/where-to-find-reliable-aruba-news/>

Do you have your favorite picks of go-to sources when it comes to catching up on Aruba news?

Things were much simpler in the past, you know... when people would find out about newsworthy sto-

LOCAL

Loyal visitor of Aruba publishes his life story in a book: From aspiring surgeon to undercover operative

EAGLE BEACH — Jorge De-Napoli is the author of the book 'The Undercover Surgeon' telling the story of his life. His journey is not a common one as De-Napoli used to be a US secret service servant for about 30 years. He also built an impressive career as a psychiatrist. In the year 1985 he and his beloved wife fell in love with Aruba and

United States to specialize in some branch of surgery. In those days of course we did not have internet to the any means of communication was by telephone which took hours to do it. Another form was to write to different hospitals where I was going to do a rotating internship at first. One hospital in New York City

funks to go back when a friend of his who was doing psychiatry told him that some psychiatric hospitals in Massachusetts are taking doctors and pay a good salary. "I was actually there to make money to return to Argentina. I had a student visa which I had to turn into a working permit, a green card. I worked there about two years when I met this sexy nurse," he laughs. They fell deeply in love and they decided to get married. "I made psychiatry my career and went working

of a hospital in New York State. I got my degree in psychiatry and that's why the title of the book is the 'Undercover Surgeon' because it was not my idea to stay."

Undercover: Eventually the couple returned to Massachusetts where De-Napoli opened a psychiatry practice and they got four children. "A friend decided to run as US Representative and he wanted me in his campaign team because I un-

demand human behavior and so I did. We travelled to Washington many times and I was introduced to a lot of people," he received a phone call two years later from someone in Washington from the intelligence services wanting to recruit him to be part of the office of strategic information. It sounded interesting to him but he thought, this must be a joke. My friends are setting me up.

Continued on Page 14

SURRENDER TO YOUR EVERY CRAVING.

ries via the daily printed newspapers, select-few ra-

dio programs, or the iconic island way: word-of-mouth.

Now, in the digital age, with all of this information being easily shared online, it can seem a little hard to determine what's credible news, versus stories shared just to boost ratings and make some extra cash.

With that being said, the following is a lineup (in no particular order) of sources for reliable Aruba news, according to some of the CaribMedia teammates:

Amigoe Aruba

Media type: Print (Newspaper) & Digital *Please note, digital is only accessible with a subscription. Where to catch their news updates: Pick up a copy of their newspaper at major super markets, subscribe

to get home deliveries, or check them out online via Amigoe.com

Time to get the latest scoop: 6 days out of the week, Monday to Saturday

Aruba Today

Media type: FREE Print (Newspaper) & Digital, only English newspaper on the island

Where to catch their news updates: Pick up a copy of their newspaper at resorts, condominiums, restaurants, major super markets, or check them out online via Arubatoday.com

Time to get the latest scoop: Daily for print, and check their website regularly for the latest updates.

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Bon Dia Aruba

Media type: Print (Newspaper) & Digital

Where to catch their news updates: Pick up a copy of their newspaper at major super markets, or check them out online via Bondia.com

Time to get the latest scoop: Daily for print, and check their website regularly for the latest updates

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Where to catch their news updates: Channels 13, 23 and 313 (for HD viewing)
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Divi Tamarijn loyal visitors honored



EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors, Goodwill Ambassadors, and Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf

of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively. The Emerald Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who

visit Aruba 35 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Robert & Donna Conway** as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassador Certificates went to **Mark Bakker** as well as couple **Ronald & Linda Rapoza**. The Emerald Am-

bassador certificate went to Kahlé Marga who has been visiting Aruba for 40 years consecutively.

The Emerald Ambassador certificate is the highest certificate that we present, and is given to visitors who have been visiting Aruba 35 years or more consecu-

tively. It is incredibly beautiful to see that Aruba has so many loyal visitors, and we hope to see them for many more years to come.

These wonderful people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety and Aruba's warm and friendly people who became like family to them. These honorees not only fell in-love with the island, but also brought family, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors to Aruba.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Tamarijn All-Inclusive Resort presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

SPORTS



In this Jan. 4, 1998 file photo, Green Bay Packers strong safety LeRoy Butler moves in against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the NFC Divisional Playoffs in Green Bay, Wisc.

Associated Press

4 safeties vying for Hall of Fame spot, 3 WRs and OLs

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writer

MIAMI (AP) — There are 11 pure safeties in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Four more are seeking to join them when the Class of 2020 is selected Saturday. John Lynch, now the general manager of the 49ers who will play the Chiefs in Sunday's Super Bowl, is up for the seventh time. Steve Atwater is a finalist for the third time. LeRoy Butler and first-year eligible Troy Polamalu complete the quartet of safeties among the 15 final candidates. "The Hall of Fame would be unbelievable. I'm humbled every year," Lynch says. "I've been a finalist seven times now. I don't know if it will necessarily change my life. I've been pretty blessed with my family, what I've been able to do in football."

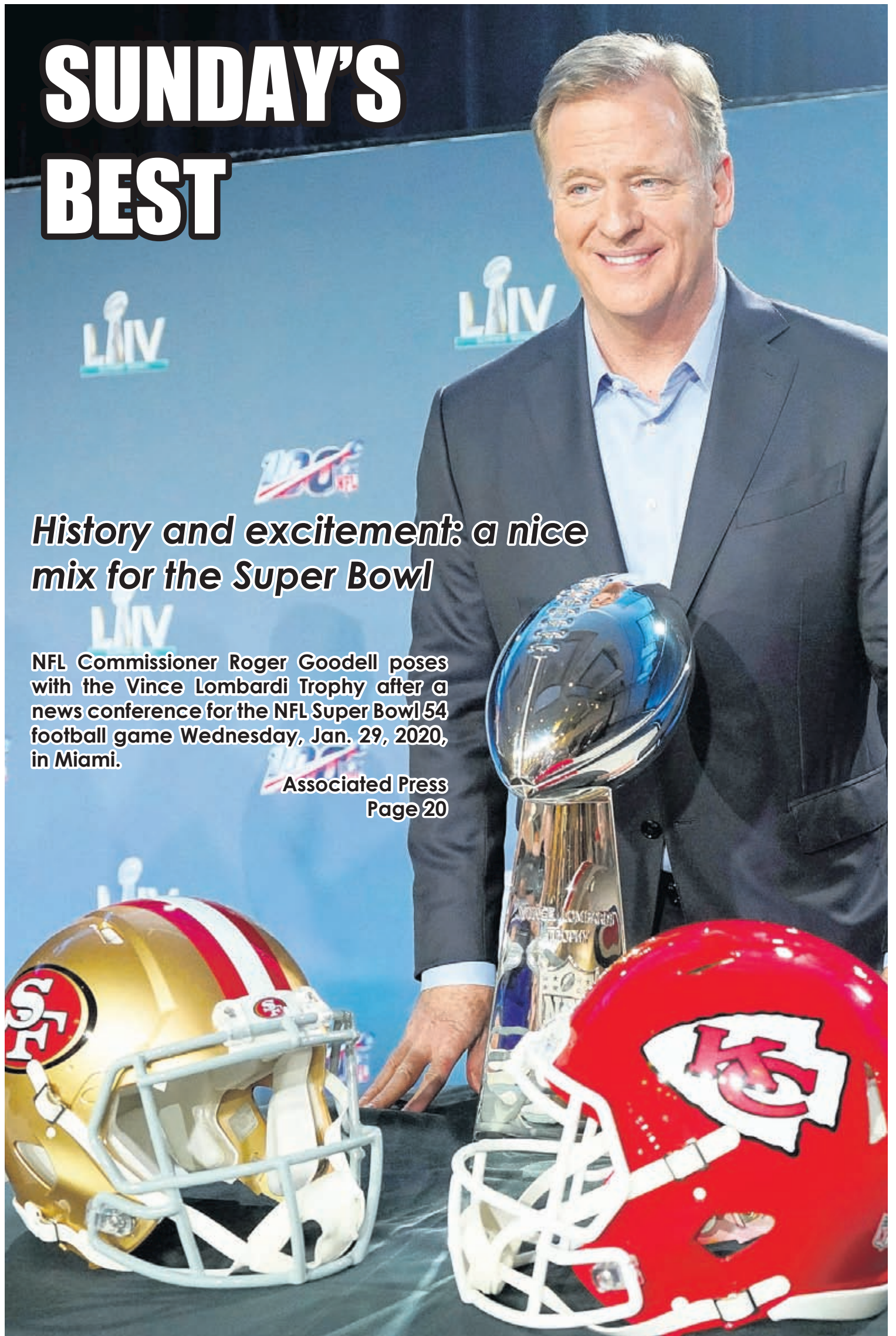
Continued on Page 19

SUNDAY'S BEST

History and excitement: a nice mix for the Super Bowl

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell poses with the Vince Lombardi Trophy after a news conference for the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020, in Miami.

Associated Press
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Thiem beats Zverev to reach 1st Australian Open final

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Locked in an even-as-can-be Australian Open semifinal, Dominic Thiem looked up at his guest box, patted his belly and stuck out his tongue, as if to indicate he was feeling sick. He shook his head. He winced. Whatever might have been going on, Thiem turned out to be just fine -- well enough to play, well enough to win. The 26-year-old Austrian reached his third Grand Slam final overall and first at Melbourne Park by using his baseline bullying and big-moment bravado to beat Alexander Zverev 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4) on Friday night.

"I was feeling nerves, I think. I was putting so much energy, so much effort in, so my stomach was not ready for that. I think it was rebelling a little bit," Thiem said, laughing about what happened. "But all good. I sometimes have it when I have tough matches."

The key to Thiem's victory over No. 7 Zverev was the same as the key to his previous win, over No. 1 Rafael Nadal in the quarterfinals: coming through in the clutch. Thiem went a combined 5 for 5 in tiebreakers in those matches.

"I was going for it. Could have also missed them," he said about some of his shots Friday. "I was brave, but also lucky that I made these."

The No. 5-seeded Thiem's opponent in the title match Sunday will be No. 2 Novak Djokovic, the defending champion, who eliminated



Austria's Dominic Thiem makes a forehand return to Germany's Alexander Zverev during their semifinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 31, 2020.

Roger Federer on Thursday. The women's final is Saturday, with two-time major champion Garbiñe Muguruza of Spain taking on 14th-seeded Sofia Kenin of the United States. It is Muguruza's fourth Grand Slam final and the 21-year-old Kenin's first.

Djokovic, 32, will be appearing in his record eighth Australian Open final and 26th Grand Slam final overall. While Thiem eyes his first major trophy, Djokovic is going for No. 17, which would move him within three of Federer's record of 20. Rafael Nadal, with 19, is the only other man ahead of Djokovic.

Thiem's two previous major finals came on the red clay of the French Open, where he was the runner-up to 12-time champion Nadal each of the last two years. Now he will face a similar

challenge: Djokovic owns a record seven titles from the hard courts of the Australian Open.

Zverev's take on Thiem's form?

"He's playing the best tennis of his life," said Zverev, who was making his debut in a Slam semifinal.

Thiem never had been past the fourth round in Melbourne until now. But he's morphing into a superior hard-court player -- and one in rather fine form at the moment, with three consecutive wins over top-10 opponents, including No. 1 Nadal in the quarterfinals and, now, Zverev.

"He flattens his shot out much more. Before, he was a complete clay-court player. A lot of movement, a lot of running around, stuff like that," Zverev said. "Now he has a complete hard-court game."

He also saved 9 of 14 break points in the semifinal.

"In the important moments, I didn't play my best. He did," Zverev said. "That's where the match kind of went his way."

Thiem shook off a shaky start and pulled out the second set by saving a pair of break points before taking it with a 125 mph ace. In the third, despite looking weary and ill, Thiem erased two set points with go-for-it winners -- one a backhand, the other a forehand. Soon after, another tiebreaker went Thiem's way, and he ended it in style with another pair of winners -- this time going forehand, then backhand.

In the final tiebreaker Friday, Thiem's last three points came via a pair of forehands and a volley. The temperature climbed all the way to 110 de-

grees (43 Celsius) during the mixed doubles semifinals Friday afternoon, but by the time the Thiem vs. Zverev match started in the evening, things were cooler. The retractable roof at Rod Laver Arena was partly open when they began, before a patch of rain in the fourth game prompted a three-minute delay so the arena could be completely covered.

There was a longer, odder, interlude after the first game of the third set, when action was held up for seven minutes because of an issue with some of the stadium lights. While tournament officials huddled to discuss the matter, fans killed time by dancing in the aisles to "Staying Alive" by the Bee Gees and "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond. Zverev changed his shirt, and Thiem smiled at the absurdity of it all.

"Loosened me up a little bit," Thiem said.

As Thiem began to impose himself -- he went from five winners in the first set, to nine in the second and 20 in the third -- Zverev seemed to find more and more things that disturbed him.

The 22-year-old German ran out of replay challenges in the third set, questioned whether the net machine was working and found an arena video board bothersome.

What bothered Zverev the most, of course, was Thiem, who now gets less than 45 hours to rest and try to figure out a way to beat Djokovic at a place no one is better. □

49ers' flexibility will prove vital in Super Bowl vs. Chiefs

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

MIAMI (AP) — The San Francisco 49ers have won games almost every way possible this season. They've won high-scoring shootouts in a dome and ugly low-scoring affairs in the mud. They've won nail biters decided by just inches in the final seconds and lopsided laughers. They've won by pounding the ball on the ground and with big plays through the air. That flexibility to thrive in all sorts of situations should prove helpful against the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday and help the Niners win their record-tying sixth Super Bowl title.

While Kansas City likely needs Patrick Mahomes to deliver an otherworldly performance to win, the Niners have the defense that can at least slow the Chiefs down a bit and an offense that can exploit any weakness in an opponent.

But for San Francisco to be successful Sunday, it will

start with a defense that allowed the fewest passing yards in 10 years and has been dominant when healthy like the unit is for the Super Bowl.

The team's biggest struggles came when some combination of edge rusher Dee Ford, speedy linebacker Kwon Alexander or safety Jaquiski Tarta was out injured.

That won't be the case Sunday.

The front four led by defensive ends Ford and Nick Bosa, and inside power rushers DeForest Buckner and Arik Armstead have the ability to make Mahomes get rid of the ball quickly and limit the broken plays that the Chiefs thrive on with their star quarterback.

That will be especially crucial against a speedy group of receivers led by Tyreek Hill and Mecole Hardman, who provide the biggest threat to San Francisco's secondary.

Despite lacking breathtaking speed, Richard Sher-

man had been unbeatable deep until allowing a big play to Green Bay's Davante Adams in the NFC title game. But quarterbacks who try to survive by challenging Sherman have regretted that over the years. With one of the league's top slot cornerbacks in K'Waun Williams and a talented and speedy safety duo of Tarta and Jimmie Ward, the best way to beat the San Francisco secondary has been to pick on Ahkello Witherspoon opposite Sherman.

But Witherspoon was benched early in the first playoff game and Emmanuel Moseley will play in his place.

As good as San Francisco's defense is, it's unlikely the Niners will be able to completely shut down Mahomes so that's where the offense comes into play.

The 49ers got to the Super Bowl by relying on coach Kyle Shanahan's innovative running game with Tevin Coleman and Raheem Mostert each having big



San Francisco 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan speaks during a media availability, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020, in Miami, for the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game against the Kansas City Chiefs. Associated Press

days.

Jimmy Garoppolo has barely had to throw the ball the past six quarters with just 14 attempts in that span. But when he's been needed this season he has delivered in a big way.

He led four fourth-quarter comebacks and had three TD passes. Any doubt that Garoppolo could carry the offense to victory should have been erased in a regular-season showdown at New Orleans.

In a game against the Saints that helped San Francisco earn the top seed in

the NFC playoffs, threw for 349 yards and four TDs in a 48-46 win.

Making Garoppolo's job easier is Shanahan's propensity to scheme open receivers and the after-the-catch ability of All-Pro tight end George Kittle and rookie receiver Deebo Samuel.

There were the top two players in the league among receivers and tight ends when it came to breaking tackles and their ability to turn short passes into big gains ultimately will be the difference to lead the Niners to victory. □

Hall of Fame

Continued from Page 17

"It would be tremendous. I'd be incredibly humbled and honored. Hopefully this is the year on Saturday." Butler, who starred for the Packers from 1990-2001, has had the longest wait to get to this point.

Butler won a Super Bowl for Green Bay, which had a quarterback named Brett Favre — a first-ballot Hall of Famer — leading the way.

"LeRoy was as important to our Super Bowl win and success as any other player on our team," Favre says. "I couldn't tell you the interceptions or tackles — I know there were a lot — but his leadership and playmaking ability were outstanding.

He had a knack for being in the right place at the right time. Being around the ball.

"He wasn't the most athletic guy and that might

surprise a lot of people, but he was so instinctive. He made the plays; some guys get in position and don't make the plays. He had a lot of charisma about him — he was the first to jump into the stands. That's no reason to put a guy into the Hall of Fame, but the career he had definitely is worthy."

Atwater was one of the hardest hitters at the position, an intimidating figure against the run but also a force in pass coverage. He played for a decade with Denver, winning two Super Bowls, then one year with the Jets. Polamalu was a do-everything safety for the Steelers from 2003-14 and the 2010 NFL Defensive Player of the Year — the last safety to earn the award. He was a four-time All-Pro known for his free-lancing playmaking.

The finalists from the defensive side also include lineman Richard Seymour

and Bryant Young, linebackers Sam Mills and Zach Thomas.

On offense, the candidates are receivers Isaac Bruce, Torry Holt and Reggie Wayne; linemen Steve Hutchinson, Alan Faneca and Tony Boselli; and running back Reggie Wayne.

"I feel like the closer we get to that day, the butterflies are going to start kicking in," Wayne said on SiriusXM NFL Radio.

"I'm just enjoying the wave, excited to be in this position. I know being a receiver this isn't the easy lock-in spot for the Hall of Fame. But man for me to be in this position on my first ballot, words can't describe it."

Wayne and Polamalu are the only first-year eligibles on the ballot Saturday.

The five modern-day players elected will be inducted into the Canton, Ohio, shrine on Aug. 8. The Hall of Fame previously elected 15 members of a centennial class.

They included coaches



In this Nov. 10, 2013, file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers' Troy Polamalu follows the action during the second half of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

Jimmy Johnson and Bill Cowher; contributors Paul Tagliabue, the former NFL commissioner, Steve Sabol, who along with his father Ed — already a Hall of Fame member — created NFL Films, and George Young, who built the New York Giants' championship teams in 1986 and 1990.

Ten former players also were selected by the special centennial committee: Dallas Cowboys safety Cliff Harris; Cleveland

receiver Mac Speedie; Pittsburgh safety Donnie Shell; Green Bay safety Bobby Dillon; Detroit defensive tackle Alex Karras; Eagles wide receiver Harold Carmichael; offensive tackles Winston Hill of the Jets and Jim Covert of the Bears; linebacker/defensive end Ed Sprinkle of the Bears; and Duke Slater, one of the NFL's first black players, an outstanding two-way player in the league's earliest days. □



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The Vince Lombardi Trophy is displayed before a news conference for the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020, in Miami.

Associated Press

Preview capsule for 49ers-Chiefs Super Bowl

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (15-3) vs. KANSAS CITY (14-4)

Sunday, 6:30 p.m. EST, Fox
OPENING LINE — Chiefs by 1

RECORD VS. SPREAD — San Francisco 11-6-1, Kansas City 12-5-1

SERIES RECORD — 49ers lead 7-6

LAST MEETING — Chiefs

beat 49ers 38-27, Sept. 23, 2018

LAST GAME — 49ers beat Packers 37-20; Chiefs beat Titans 35-24

AP PRO32 RANKING — 49ers No. 3, Chiefs No. 4

49ERS OFFENSE — OVERALL (4), RUSH (2), PASS (13).

49ERS DEFENSE — OVERALL (2), RUSH (17), PASS (1).

CHIEFS OFFENSE — OVERALL (6), RUSH (23), PASS (5).
CHIEFS DEFENSE — OVERALL (17), RUSH (26), PASS (8).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — San Francisco seeks to join New England, Pittsburgh as only franchises with six Super Bowl titles. ... Niners' most recent championship came in 1994 season. ... San Francisco first team to make Super Bowl following four straight double-digit loss seasons. Only teams to do it after three straight were 1981 49ers and 1999 Rams, who both won title. ... Kansas City in first Super Bowl in 50 years. Chiefs beat Vikings for only NFL title that game. ... Niners coach Kyle Shanahan seeks to become eighth coach to win Super Bowl in first trip to postseason. ... Chiefs scored TDs on all five first-half drives vs. 49ers last season. ... Niners QB Jimmy Garoppolo suffered

season-ending knee injury in that loss. ... Garoppolo's eight pass attempts in NFC title game were fewest for team in playoff game in 46 years. ... Garoppolo's 18 turnovers in regular season were most for any player who made playoffs. He has one giveaway in two playoff games. ... San Francisco first team since 2003 season with back-to-back games with at least 40 carries in same postseason. Last time team did it three in a row was 1982 when Washington, Miami did it. ... Niners RB Raheem Mostert rushed for 220 yards, four TDs in NFC title game. That was ninth time player reached those numbers in single game in regular or postseason since at least 1950. ... Niners had 40 of 57 sacks this season when rushing four players. ... Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes has 118.3 rating, 22 TDs, 0 INTs in career vs. five or more rushers. ... Kansas City averaging 3.91 points per drive in playoffs, best in NFL in past 20 postseasons. ... Chiefs second team since 2000 season to win multiple games in a postseason after trailing by at least 10 points. Patriots did it in 2014 when they rallied from 14 down to beat Ravens, 10 down to beat Seahawks. ... Kansas City's Andy Reid seventh coach to take two franchises to Super Bowl. Took Philadelphia there following 2004 season, losing to New England. ... Reid's 14 playoff wins are most for coach without Super Bowl title. ... Kansas City QB Patrick Mahomes has 11 career TD passes, zero INTs in four playoff games. ... Chiefs RB Damien Williams has scored nine TDs in five playoff games. □



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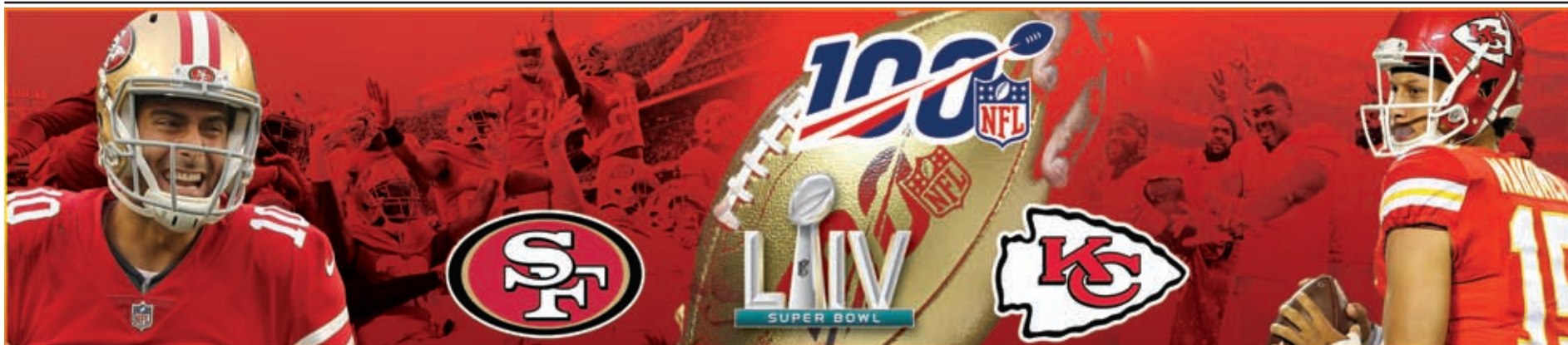
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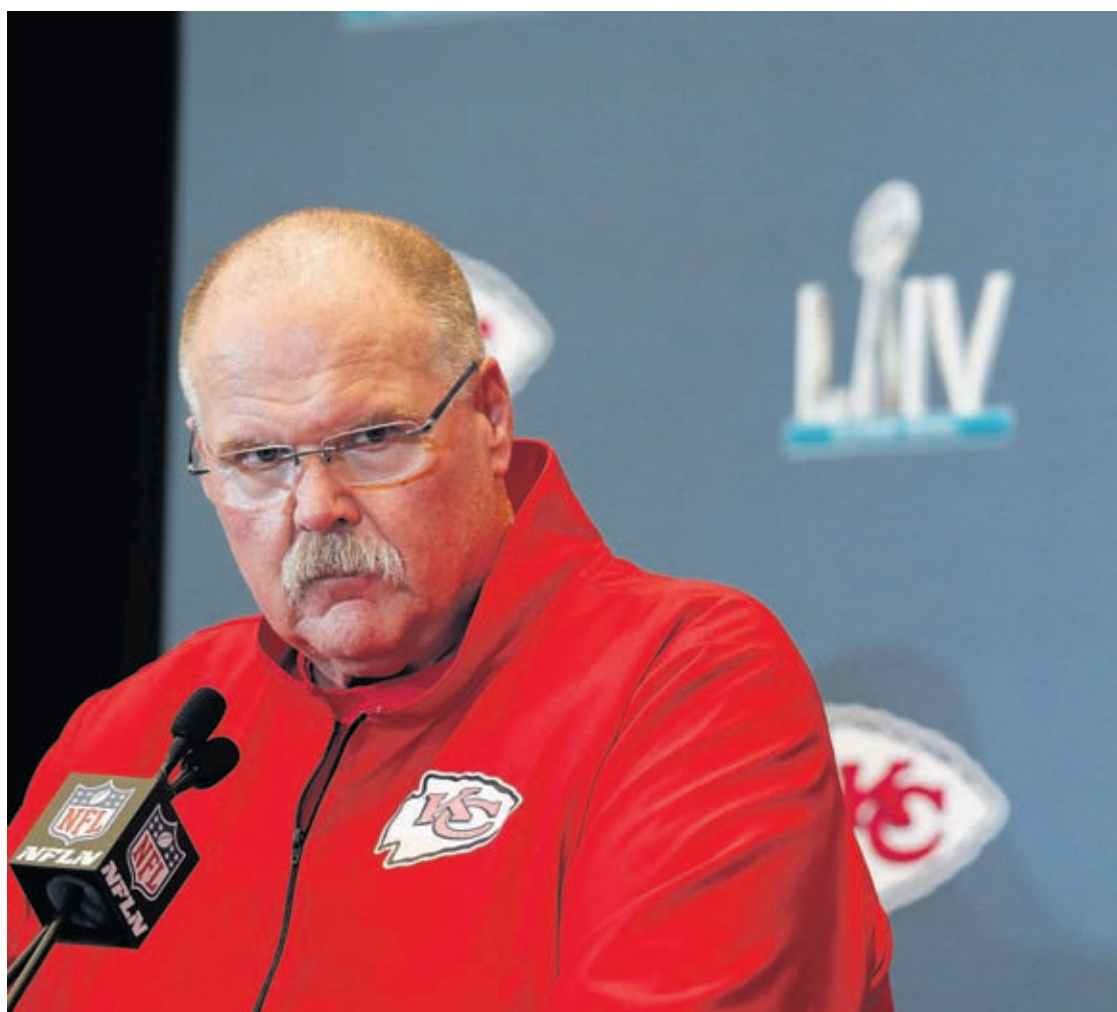
Why do Chiefs believe they will win Super Bowl? Easy: fate

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs have perhaps the best quarterback in the NFL in Patrick Mahomes, the fastest wide receiver in Tyreek Hill, one of the premier tight ends in Travis Kelce and one of the elite coaches in Andy Reid.

They have plenty of other playmakers, too. Damien Williams has had starring turns at running back, Sammy Watkins had a monster AFC title game, and a defense anchored by Frank Clark and Tyrann Mathieu has been downright stingy. Those are all compelling reasons for why the Chiefs could win their first Super Bowl in 50 years on Sunday, but it's not the biggest one. No, most fans back in Kansas City are pinning their hopes on something far less tangible: fate.

The Chiefs overcame a plethora of injuries just to reach this point, including a potentially serious knee injury to Mahomes midway through the season. They won their regular-season finale as the Patriots were losing to the Dolphins, a stunning set of results that gave them a first-round playoff bye. They rallied from a 24-point hole against Houston, avoided top-seeded Baltimore, then overcame an early 10-point deficit to beat Tennessee for the conference championship. "We've had some great moments," Chiefs coach Andy Reid acknowledged. "I've enjoyed some of these other teams that I've been with, too. I'd be slighting the guys there. I've had fun with them. We're all honored to be doing this, as you guys are. It's a small fraternity, whether it's the media or the players and coaches. I try to enjoy every day. I've



Kansas City Chiefs head coach Andy Reid speaks during a news conference on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020, in Aventura, Fla., for the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game.

had fun this year."

It's not just the confluence of events that have folks believing in destiny, though.

They point to Reid, one of the best coaches of his era, who finally gets a chance to add a Super Bowl title to his resume. It was 15 years ago that his Eagles lost to the Patriots in the only other trip "Big Red" made to the big stage.

They point to the Hunt family that owns the Chiefs. It was their founder, Lamar, who coined the term "Super Bowl," and his wife Norma has been to all 54 games played. Their son, chairman Clark Hunt, has been instrumental in league affairs.

They point to the players themselves, most of whom were part of a team that

came within an offside penalty of reaching the Super Bowl last season.

Much like the Kansas City Royals came within a whisper of winning the World Series in 2014, only to get the job done the following year, folks back in the snowy Midwest have a feeling that the Chiefs are simply due.

"In the NFL, you are going to go through adversity," Mahomes said. "Last year, obviously the loss hurt, but having to watch the Super Bowl and not being in it was something I could barely even do. For me, I knew I wanted to be in this moment. I think that's what we preached as a team, we want to be here. We want to be in the Super Bowl."

Of course, there are more

palpable reasons the Chiefs believe they will triumph Sunday.

While the 49ers have one of the NFL's best defenses, they have yet to face an offense with the sheer volume of playmakers that Mahomes has at his disposal. Hill, Kelce and rookie returner Mecole Hardman were all voted to the Pro Bowl, Watkins has been a breakout performer in the postseason and Williams is dangerous in the backfield and out of it.

Take away one. Or two. Or even three. But good luck taking away all of them.

"You've got to play good defense. You've got to contain the receivers. You've got to do your job," 49ers cornerback Richard Sherman said. "You've got

to limit the big plays, but it's easier said than done, for sure." It's not just the skill positions that give the Chiefs an offensive edge. Their line, anchored by All-Pro right tackle Mitchell Schwartz, allowed the third-fewest sacks in the NFL this season and just nine total over their final eight regular-season games. That means they are well-equipped to deal with the ferocious San Francisco pass rush.

Speaking of defense, the 49ers aren't the only ones that can stop a team.

The Chiefs overhauled that side of the ball under coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, and a pass defense that was second-to-last in the NFL last season was the eighth-best this season. The Chiefs were fifth in the league in interceptions, Clark and Pro Bowl defensive tackle Chris Jones form a formidable pass rush, and Mathieu has proven to be a game-changer at safety. The big question mark this season has been the Kansas City run defense, and the 49ers bring to Miami the league's second-ranked rush offense.

But the Chiefs haven't allowed a 100-yard rusher since Week 12, and they effectively shut down Titans star Derrick Henry's historic postseason run in the conference championship game.

"We've got one more game to go out there and play with some swagger. That's what I was telling our guys," Mathieu said. "I'm kind of the older guy in the room making sure they don't get too loud. We've got one more game and we've got to finish the job. If we don't show up in the next game, it'll be the same narrative. My job here is to finish the job." □

Associated Press

Young has 39 points, 18 assists as Hawks upend 76ers

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — All-Star guard Trae Young had 39 points and a career-high 18 assists to lead the Atlanta Hawks past Ben Simmons and Philadelphia 127-117 on Thursday night, extending the 76ers' road woes. Simmons scored 31 points to lead Philadelphia. Shake Milton had a career-high 27 points — 14 more than his previous high — but it wasn't enough to improve the 76ers' poor road record. Philadelphia, 22-2 at home, fell to 9-16 in away games.

John Collins had 17 points and 20 rebounds for Atlanta.

The 76ers, who began the night tied with Indiana for fifth place in the East, held their last lead at 21-20 against the Hawks, who are last in the conference.

Joel Embid had 21 points and 14 rebounds for Philadelphia.

Hawks coach Lloyd Pierce and his assistants wore Kobe Bryant's Nike shoes during the game as their tribute to the retired Los Angeles Lakers great, who was killed Sunday in a helicopter crash.

KINGS 124, CLIPPERS 103

LOS ANGELES (AP) — De'Aaron Fox scored a career-best 34 points and Sacramento used a strong second quarter to defeat Los Angeles.

It was the first basketball game at Staples Center since Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others were killed in Sunday's helicopter crash in Southern California. Clippers star Paul George narrated a 2-minute video tribute shown before the game while Bryant's retired No. 8 and No. 24 Lakers jerseys were left uncovered in the upper left corner of the arena.

Buddy Hield added 19 points and Cory Joseph had 16 for the Kings, who made a franchise-record 21 3-pointers.

Lou Williams scored 22 points and Montrezl Harrell had 21 for the Clippers, who were without Kawhi Leonard.

The All-Star forward was



Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young (11) reacts after hitting a basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

scratched after pregame warmups due to a lower back strain. George returned after missing the past nine games due to a left hamstring strain and scored eight points in 19 minutes.

RAPTORS 115, CAVALIERS 109

CLEVELAND (AP) — Serge Ibaka scored 26 points, Kyle Lowry had 23 and Toronto held off Cleveland for its ninth straight win.

Norman Powell scored eight consecutive points in the final minute for the Raptors after the Cavaliers cut the lead to 105-104. Powell hit a 3-pointer, scored on a layup after making a steal and sank three foul shots to seal the win.

Cleveland trimmed its deficit to one on three occasions and had a chance to tie the game, but Darius

Garland missed the second of two free throws with 1:18 to play, leaving Toronto's lead at 105-104.

Lowry was selected as an All-Star reserve earlier in the day, the sixth time he'll appear in the game. Pascal Siakam, an All-Star starter, scored 19 points and Powell had 16.

Kevin Love and Collin Sexton each scored 23 points for Cleveland, which has lost nine of 10 overall and nine in a row at home.

CELTICS 119, WARRIORS 104

BOSTON (AP) — Gordon Hayward scored 25 points and Boston earned its fifth victory in six games by beating Golden State.

Marcus Smart added 21 points, 17 in the second half on a night when the Celtics became the latest team to offer a tribute to Kobe Bryant following his death in a

helicopter crash.

Jayson Tatum, just selected to his first All-Star Game, returned to the lineup after missing three games with a right groin strain. He finished with 20 points in 24 minutes. D'Angelo Russell led the Warriors, who lost their fifth straight, with 22 points. Alec Burks scored 18.

NUGGETS 106, JAZZ 100

DENVER (AP) — Nikola Jokic scored 28 points, including six in the final two minutes, and dished out 10 assists as the short-handed Denver Nuggets rode a big second-half run to a win over Utah.

Trailing 70-61 with 4:13 left in the third, the Nugget went on a 15-0 spurt to close out the quarter. They continued their roll in the fourth. In all, it was a 27-1 surge — and nearly wasn't enough. A 17-point Denver lead

was whittled to three before Jokic took over. The big man who just made his second All-Star team hit a pair of free throws, a long jumper and a floater to restore some breathing room. Jordan Clarkson scored 24 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter for the Jazz on a night when leading scorer Donovan Mitchell was held to four on 1-for-12 shooting. He didn't get his first basket until there was 4:05 left. Mitchell was selected to his first All-Star Game earlier in the evening.

It marked the first of four meetings between the Northwest Division rivals. The Nuggets (33-15) moved a game clear of the Jazz (32-16).

Jokic carried the load for a Denver team that was missing Jamal Murray (sprained left ankle), Paul Millsap (bruised left knee), Gary Harris (personal reasons) and Mason Plumlee (right foot). Michael Porter Jr. finished with 12 points and 12 rebounds off the bench.

Utah center Rudy Gobert had 21 points and 11 rebounds after making his first All-Star team. The Jazz have dropped three straight.

WIZARDS 121, HORNETS 107

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bradley Beal had 34 points, nine rebounds and nine assists after he was snubbed for an All-Star selection, and Washington topped Charlotte.

Miles Bridges led Charlotte with 23 points, and Terry Rozier had 21. The Hornets have lost nine of 10 and 15 of 18.

Beal, chosen for the All-Star Game the previous two years, failed to make it as a reserve in results that were revealed shortly before game time.

He was 5 for 10 from 3-point range, and his fifth 3 came in the middle of a 13-0 run that gave the Wizards an 82-74 lead with 1:41 to play in the third quarter. Beal also made 13 of 14 free throws and scored more than 30 points for the fifth straight game.

Thomas Bryant had 21 points for Washington, which began a six-game homestand. □



In this file photo dated Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019, Marathon runner Eliud Kipchoge from Kenya running the INEOS 1:59 Challenge to finish in 1:59:40 in Vienna, Austria, to become the first human ever to run a marathon under two hours.

Associated Press

Track body sees risk in shoes tech but clears Nike design

MONACO (AP) — World Athletics cleared distance runners to keep wearing a favored Nike design even though it acknowledged on Friday shoe technology poses a risk to the sport. The governing body published updated guidelines which limited the use of prototype shoes like the high-tech Nike style worn in a sub-2 hour marathon run by Eliud Kipchoge in Vienna in October. Independent research showed "sufficient evidence to raise concerns that the integrity of the sport might be threatened by the recent developments in shoe technology," the Monaco-based governing body said. An expert working group will be created to assess new shoes entering the market. Still, the more established Nike style called Vaporfly, increasingly favored by top marathon runners, can be worn. World Athletics set a guideline taking effect on April 30 that a shoe must have been available to buy for at least four months to be eligible for use in competition. "If a shoe is not openly available to all then it will be deemed a prototype and use of it in competition will not be permitted," the

statement said. The Tokyo Olympics open in just under six months. "As we enter the Olympic year, we don't believe we can rule out shoes that have been generally available for a considerable period of time," World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said, "but we can draw a line by prohibiting the use of shoes that go further than what is currently on the market while we investigate further. "I believe these new rules strike the right balance by offering certainty to athletes and manufacturers as they prepare for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games." □



Nashville Predators center Matt Duchene (95) watches as he scores a goal against New Jersey Devils goaltender Mackenzie Blackwood (29) during overtime of an NHL hockey game, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020, in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

Predators give coach wild win over Devils, his former team

By The Associated Press
NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Filip Forsberg and Matt Duchene scored in a shootout, and the Nashville Predators gave coach John Hynes a win against his former team with a wild 6-5 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Thursday night. Forsberg scored two goals in regulation and Pekka Rinne made saves on Jack Hughes and Kyle Palmieri on the Devils' final two shootout attempts as the Predators won their second game in two nights. Mattias Ekholm, Nick Bonino and Duchene also scored for the Predators. Rinne had 27 saves for Nashville, which is 7-0-3 in its last 10 games against New Jersey. Pavel Zacha scored twice and Nikita Gusev, Jesper Bratt and John Hayden once for the Devils. Mack-

enzie Blackwood stopped 25 shots, including seven in overtime. Hynes was fired by the Devils on Dec. 3 after going 9-13-4 in the opening months of his fifth season in New Jersey. **KINGS 3, COYOTES 2, OT**
GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Alex Iafallo scored 24 seconds into overtime, completing a hat trick that lifted the Los Angeles over Arizona and ended its five-game losing streak. Iafallo tied the game with 2:54 left in regulation, then won it moments later. Jack Campbell stopped 26 shots and Anze Kopitar assisted on two goals for the Kings, who got their second win of the month. Christian Dvorak gave the Coyotes a 2-1 lead with 56 seconds left in the second period, and Nick Schmaltz also scored for Arizona. But

the Coyotes lost their fourth straight and are 1-5-2 in their last eight games. **CANADIENS 3, SABRES 1**
BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Ilya Kovalchuk and Brendan Gallagher scored in a span of 2:16 early in the second period, and Montreal beat Buffalo. Carey Price stopped 20 shots to improve to 5-1 in his last six starts, a stretch in which he's allowed just 10 goals. For Gallagher, the goal came in his first game after missing six straight and 10 of 11 with headaches and concussion-related issues. Tomas Tatar sealed Montreal's fifth win in seven games with an empty-net goal with 1:47 left. Jack Eichel scored for Buffalo, becoming the team's first player in 27 years to reach 30 goals in 50 or fewer games. □

3-time All-Star Curtis Granderson retires after 16 seasons

By STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer
MIAMI (AP) — Three-time All-Star outfielder Curtis Granderson announced his retirement Friday after 16 seasons in the major leagues. Granderson played for seven teams. He was an All-Star for the Detroit Tigers in 2009, and for the New York Yankees in 2011 and 2012. In 2011, he led the majors with 136 runs and led the American League with 119 RBIs while

hitting 41 homers. In 2007 with Detroit, he became only the third player to collect at least 30 doubles, 20 triples, 20 homers and 20 steals in a season. Last year Granderson batted .183 in 138 games for the Miami Marlins. He also played for Toronto, Milwaukee, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Mets, totaling 344 career homers and 937 RBIs while batting .249. Granderson, who has a children's foundation and



In this Oct. 28, 2016, file photo, New York Mets' Curtis Granderson smiles at a news conference as he receives the 2016 MLB Roberto Clemente Award before Game 3 of the Major League Baseball World Series in Chicago.

Associated Press

has long been active in community work, said he'll continue to bring baseball to in-need youngsters. □



In this July 5, 2015, file photo, a man uses the dating app Tinder in New Delhi.

Associated Press

Dating apps face U.S. inquiry over underage use, sex offenders

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A

House subcommittee is investigating popular dating services such as Tinder and Bumble for allegedly allowing minors and sex offenders to use their services.

Bumble, Grindr, The Meet Group and the Match Group, which owns such popular services as Tinder, Match.com and OkCupid, are the current targets of the investigation by the U.S. House Oversight and Reform subcommittee on economic and consumer policy.

In separate letters Thursday to the companies, the subcommittee is seeking information on users' ages, procedures for verifying ages, and any complaints about assaults, rape or the use of the services by minors. It is also asking for the services' privacy policies and details on what users see when they review and agree to the policies. It also seeks information on what data is collected on people, including sexual orientation, drug use and political views.

Although the minimum age for using internet services is typically 13 in the U.S., dating services generally require users to be at least 18 because of concerns about sexual predators.

"Our concern about the

underage use of dating apps is heightened by reports that many popular free dating apps permit registered sex offenders to use them, while the paid versions of these same apps screen out registered sex offenders," Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, the Illinois Democrat who heads the subcommittee, said in a statement. "Protection from sexual predators should not be a luxury confined to paying customers."

Match Group said it uses "every tool possible" to keep minors and bad actors off its services and continues to invest in technology to keep users safe. In an emailed statement, the company said the problem was broader and requires other parties, including app stores that know who their users are, "to do their part as well."

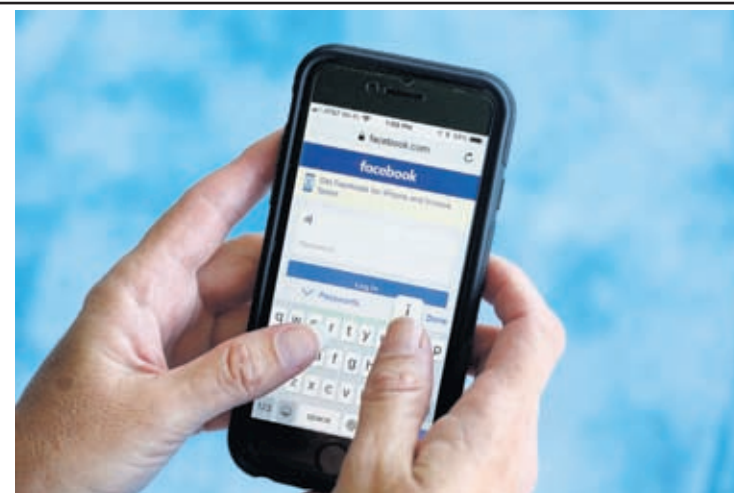
Match added that the national sex offender registry needs to be updated so that perpetrators' digital footprints can be tracked and blocked by social media and dating services.

Grindr and The Meet Group did not respond to messages for comment on Thursday. Bumble had no immediate comment.

Besides safety issues, the investigation also seeks to address concerns about data the services request to make matches. Such

information may include sexual orientation, gender identity, political views, and drug, alcohol and tobacco use.

The subcommittee cited a report by a Norwegian consumer group this month that found that dating apps including Grindr, OkCupid and Tinder leak personal information to advertising tech companies in possible violation of European data privacy laws. The Norwegian Consumer Council said it found "serious privacy infringements" in its analysis of how shadowy online ad companies track and profile smartphone users. □



In this Aug. 21, 2018, file photo, a Facebook start page is shown on a smartphone in Surfside, Fla.

Associated Press

Facebook fights spread of misinformation about virus online

Associated Press

Facebook says it's working to limit the spread of misinformation and potentially harmful content about the coronavirus as bogus claims about the ongoing outbreak circulate online. Kang-Xing Jin, Facebook's head of health, announced that the social media platform will begin removing posts that include false claims or conspiracy theories about the virus that have been flagged by health authorities. The company said it will focus on posts that discourage people from getting medical treatment, or that make potentially dangerous claims about cures.

The company will also limit the spread of posts debunked by its third-party fact checkers, and sent

users who shared the post a notification. Users who search for information on the virus on Facebook, or who click on certain related hashtags on Instagram, will receive a pop-up providing authoritative information on the virus. In addition, information about the outbreak will also appear at the top of Facebook users' news feeds based on guidance from the World Health Organization.

"We will also block or restrict hashtags used to spread misinformation on Instagram, and are conducting proactive sweeps to find and remove as much of this content as we can," Jin wrote in a post. "Not all of these steps are fully in place. It will take some time to roll them out across our platforms." □

Maine lawmakers propose bill to ban 'deepfake' political ads

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — Maine lawmakers are considering a bill banning the use of "deepfake" video technology in the state's political advertising.

A Democratic lawmaker told the Legislature's Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee on Wednesday that technological advancements could be used to undermine the state's political process and the public's trust, the Portland Press Herald reported.

"It's not hard to imagine how destructive this technology could be in an election," the bill's sponsor, Democratic Sen. Rebecca Millett, of Cape Elizabeth, said. The use of deepfake video continues to be a growing concern for federal policy-

makers, especially prominent politicians who have been smeared by its use on social media.

The videos are created with digitized images, using a form of artificial intelligence known as deep learning. The technology can be used to produce videos, still images or audio that's highly convincing and often impossible to identify as fake. Millett's bill would prohibit publication and distribution of deepfake content of a candidate within 60 days of an election. The proposal would also allow the targeted candidate to seek a court order to block publication of the content as well as pursue civil action against whomever published or distributed it. □

Eurozone economy records worst year since 2013

By PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The eurozone economy, which is made up of the 19 countries that use the euro currency, ended 2019 with a whimper and recorded its worst year of growth since it was mired in a debt crisis in 2013.

In its first estimate for the quarter, statistics agency Eurostat said the eurozone grew by only 0.1% from the previous three-month period. That is its lowest rate since the first quarter of 2013, when the single currency bloc was fighting a debt crisis that nearly spelled ruin for the euro itself.

For 2019 as a whole, the eurozone grew by only 1.2% - again its lowest rate since 2013, when it shrank by 0.2%.

Though Eurostat did not provide explanations to its figures published Friday, the report confirms how the eurozone lost steam as a result of worries over a trade war between the U.S. and China that is having knock-on effects around the world. Following the conclusion of a first round of trade talks with China, President Donald Trump is turning his gaze towards Europe and is threatening tariffs over what he considers to be the unfair treatment of American businesses by the European Union.



European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde, Cyprus' Economy Minister Constantinos Petrides, Eurogroup President Mario Centeno, European Commissioner for Economy Paolo Gentiloni, Austrian Finance Minister Gernot Blumel and German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz, from left, talk each other during a meeting of European Union Finance Ministers in Eurogroup format at the Europa building in Brussels, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

Uncertainty related to Britain's departure from the EU, which is officially taking place later Friday, has also hobbled business and trade.

The quarterly growth recorded was lower than the 0.2% anticipated in the markets and was largely due to the fact that two of the eurozone's biggest economies, France and Italy, both contracted. According to their respective statistics agencies, their economies shrank by 0.1% and 0.3%.

France has endured a series of strikes over the winter that had a modest impact on household spending. The main reason why France unexpectedly shrank during the quarter was related to a draw-down of stocks by firms. That has the potential to be reversed in the first quarter of 2020, which could see France bounce back.

Italy's quarterly performance was its worst since 2013 and though a breakdown was not provided, most economists think it

was due to weak domestic demand.

Spain provided some counterweight as it grew by a solid quarterly rate of 0.5%, largely on the back of a strong export performance.

Many countries, including Germany, have still to report quarterly numbers so the overall eurozone number could be revised next month.

There are hopes that Europe could enjoy a spring-back this year, largely because the trade tensions

between the U.S. and China have eased following their so-called Phase 1 agreement and amid the greater Brexit certainty.

"With an encouraging recent rise in sentiment indicators, we still think that the eurozone economy should see growth pick up gradually in 2020," said Rosie Colthorpe, European economist at Oxford Economics.

In a separate report, Eurostat found that the annual rate of inflation across the eurozone rose to 1.4% in January from 1.3% the previous month, largely as a result of higher energy prices. The core inflation rate, which strips out volatile items such as food and energy, fell to 1.1% in January from 1.3%.

The fall in the core rate is likely to be a cause for concern for policymakers at the European Central Bank, including its new president, Christine Lagarde. By whatever measure, inflation remains below the European Central Bank's goal of just below 2%, and could fall further next month if the recent drop in oil prices following the virus outbreak in China persists.

The ECB is running a stimulus program to nudge up inflation and growth, but is also undergoing a thorough review of how it tries to do that, including whether it should change its inflation target. □

Amazon is big ... really, really big; workforce hits 500K

By JOSEPH PISANI
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Need more proof that Amazon is big? It came this week.

Amazon's U.S. workforce has topped 500,000 for the first time, up 43% from the year before and more than triple what it was five years ago, the company said Friday. It gained 150,000 workers last year, more than the size of Apple's entire workforce.

When it reported its quarterly performance Thursday, Amazon revealed that 150 million people were paying to be mem-

bers of its Prime service, which offers faster shipping and other perks. On Friday, even while the Dow fell 600 points, Amazon shares soared passed \$2,000 apiece, doubling in price in about two years. Amazon's growth comes with increased scrutiny. Some Democratic presidential candidates want to break it up. Others want it to pay more taxes. It is a regular target of President Donald Trump, who has been tweeting similar complaints as he fights with Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, who also owns The

Washington Post. Amazon has said it shouldn't be broken up, and that it pays all the taxes it owes.

Being under the microscope has not slowed its phenomenal growth. Sales during the holiday season soared. Its other businesses, including cloud computing and advertising, grew, too, despite increased competition from other big tech companies. Analysts at Benchmark said the results were a "not-so-subtle reminder Amazon is still king."

Amazon said it has 30,000 workers in tech offices out-



In this Feb. 14, 2019 file photo, people stand in the lobby for Amazon offices in New York.

Associated Press

side of its Seattle home, in cities such as Chicago, Denver and Austin, Texas.

That group of workers is up 50% in the last year and a half, Amazon said. □

Mutts



6 Chix



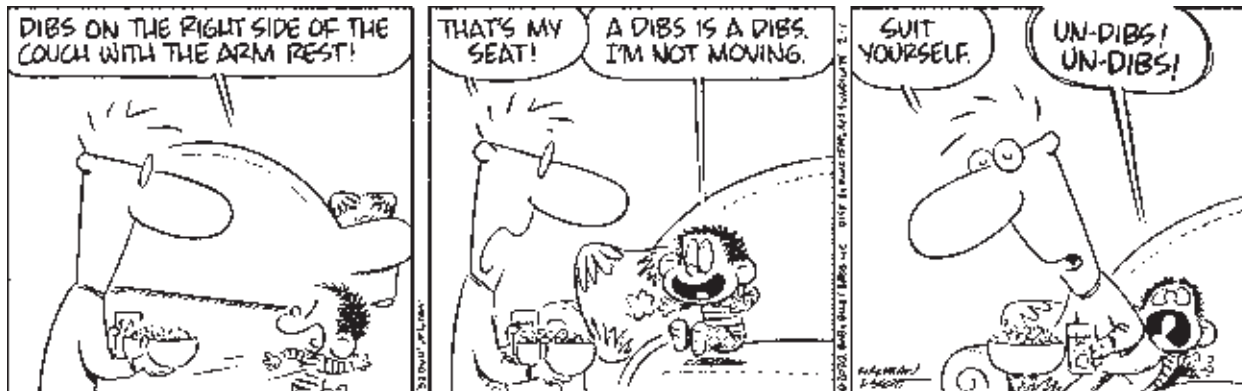
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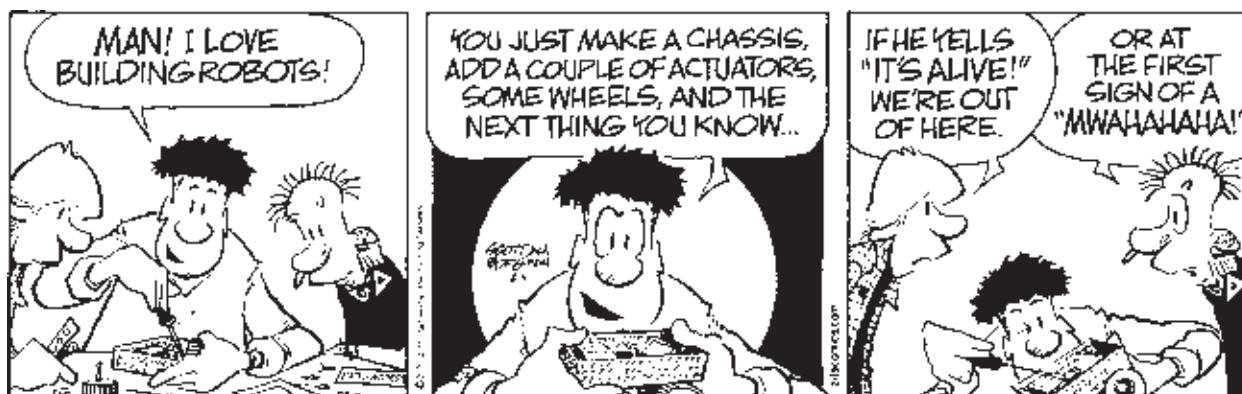
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		4	2	7				
	2		8				9	
1				9				5
2	3							
9		5					2	7
							9	5
	6			5				1
		2		1	8		6	
				7	8			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

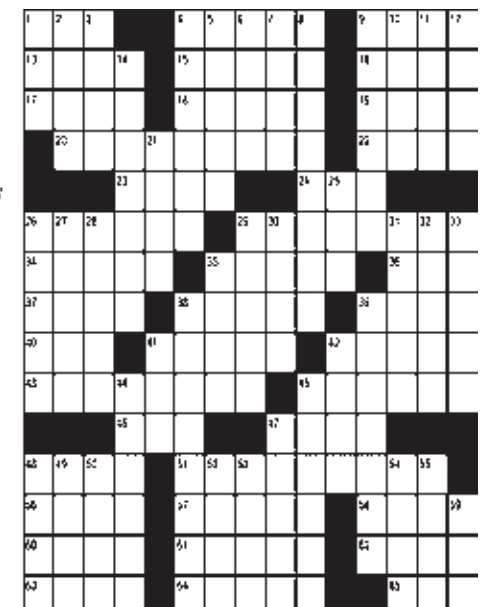
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	7	5	2	3	1	4	8	6
4	6	3	5	9	8	1	2	7
2	1	8	4	6	7	3	5	9
1	8	7	6	4	9	2	3	5
5	2	9	8	1	3	7	6	4
3	4	6	7	5	2	8	9	1
7	9	4	3	2	5	6	1	8
8	5	2	1	7	6	9	4	3
6	3	1	9	8	4	5	7	2

- ACROSS**
- 145C towers
 - 3rd path
 - Charitable ght
 - Family of hockey's Bobby
 - Empty a sink
 - Cale au
 - Word after pocky or lout
 - a slow burn: seething
 - Turner or Fey
 - Wave the white flag
 - at ease
 - Yours, Mine & Dennis Quaid film
 - 4th calendar pg
 - Scouts
 - Consultants
 - Track-and-field events
 - Souzzal
 - Drivers' assn
 - Annexes, often
 - Prepared for a sale
 - End-of-the-workweek shout
 - Pub drink
 - Knight's suit
 - One of the wile's
 - Complete turn
 - Occupation
 - Amethyst or ruby
 - hit on the head
 - Make a olt: down
 - Worship
 - Make money
 - Second-largest U.S. state
 - highly satisfied
 - Pardon me?
 - less polite yr
 - Vote ntp office
 - Go underground
 - And lighters
 - Basins
 - Ball holder

- DOWN**
- 1 -com, Internet business
 - Viscous ailes
 - Düsseldorf wife
 - Scary snake
 - Actor Jeremy
 - I Am... song
 - TV's 'What's My ?'
 - Exiled
 - Moldies
 - back relaxed
 - Address 'Na Wen
 - Command to Fido
 - Brussels: cruciferous veggies
 - the wrong way: irritates
 - Priming store chain
 - Make a snudge worse
 - Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
 - Find a new tenant for
 - Frog's crime
 - Forest: animal
 - Bird of prey
 - E ovate
 - Morley once of
 - 60 Minutes
 - Singer Perry



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

2/1/20

Friday's Puzzle Solved

HUT	FABLE	FLOW
JANE	ALOOF	IOWA
AVID	STRAGGLING	
GEM	STEED	RINSE
PALER	DAN	
MARLIN	TINGES	
ADOPT	EVICT	UNO
MAVS	SLIME	SCAN
AGE	BUMPS	SPACE
RODIES	CAULKS	
ODD	CANDY	
HENCE	THIRD	PRO
ACCENTUATE	STUN	
THIN	UNITE	TUBA
HOST	BARON	ESS

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- 36 Apes & monkeys
- 39 Island language
- 41 Feasted
- 42 Be cut of breath
- 44 Insurance co employees
- 45 Shorelines
- 47 up, start laughing
- 48 Semiaquatic salamander
- 49 Home to most Hawaiians
- 50 Mini car
- 52 Sandwich shop
- 53 Horned animals
- 54 Leave out
- 55 Wearing nothing
- 59 whiz

Dog and goat vie for honorary mayor of Vermont town

By **LISA RATHKE**
Associated Press

FAIR HAVEN, Vt. (AP) — It's Lincoln the goat versus Sammy the dog in the race for honorary mayor of one Vermont town.

The Nubian goat had won the post in Fair Haven, Vermont, last year after the town manager came up with the pet mayor election to raise money to rehabilitate a community playground and to get kids civically involved.

"In Fair Haven, just like everywhere else, voter participation is not always as high as we want it," said Town Manager Joe Gunter. Resident Cheryl Daviau said the race has gotten children involved in the election process. Her granddaughter got her picture taken with the goat mayor and loved it, she said.

To up the ante, this year the police chief nominated K-9 Sammy, a German Shepherd, who visits local schools daily with a resource officer, attends concerts in the park and is beloved around town. □

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Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors

Richard Brooks
Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto
Pilar Flores

Columnists

Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Shanella Pantophlet
Steve Francees
Thais Franken

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3BEDRM \$13k

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Survey: Alaska's Cook Inlet beluga whales continue decline

By DAN JOLING

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— The population of endangered beluga whales in Alaska's Cook Inlet continues to decline, federal marine mammal authorities announced Tuesday.

A biennial survey conducted by the fisheries arm of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimated the population of the white whales at 250 to 317, with a median estimate of 279.

"The population is estimated to be smaller and declining more quickly than previously thought," NOAA Fisheries said in the announcement.

The survey is based on data collected by aerial surveys in summer 2018.

The survey also documented that a contraction has persisted of the summer range of belugas, the geographical area where they live. Since 2008, on average 81% of the total population occupied the Susitna Delta near the north end of the inlet in early June during the aerial survey period. Before that, about 50 percent did.

The 2009-18 range for belu-



In this August 2009, file photo, provided by the Department of Defense, a Cook Inlet beluga whale calf, left, and an adult breach near Anchorage, Alaska.

Associated Press

gas is estimated to be only 29% of the range observed in 1978-79, according to the survey.

The population estimate three years ago was about 340 whales. The agency in January 2017 released a Cook Inlet beluga whale recovery plan.

Cook Inlet belugas are one of five beluga populations in U.S. waters. Cook Inlet stretches 180 miles (290 kilometers) from Anchorage to the Gulf of Alaska. NOAA Fisheries three years

ago said the carrying capacity for the area was 1,300 animals.

Beluga whales feed on salmon, smaller fish, crab, shrimp, squid and clams and in late summer can be spotted from highways leading from Anchorage, chasing salmon schooled at stream mouths. The whales turn white as adults and can reach 15 feet (4.6 meters) long.

The Cook Inlet beluga population dwindled steadily through the 1980s and

early '90s. The decline accelerated between 1994 and 1998 when Alaska Natives harvested nearly half the remaining 650 whales in only four years.

Subsistence hunting ended in 1999. Federal officials initially figured that controlling subsistence hunting would allow the population to recover. When it did not, they declared belugas endangered in 2008.

NOAA Fisheries officials in 2017 acknowledged that they did not know why the

population has not recovered.

Among the identified potential threats to belugas are catastrophic events, such as natural disasters or oil spills; cumulative effects of multiple stressors; and noise. Disease agents, such as blooms of harmful algae, loss of habitat, a reduction in prey and unauthorized killing also are threats.

Oil and natural gas extracted from Cook Inlet provides energy for Anchorage and other southcentral Alaska locations.

Kristen Monsell, an attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity, called the survey "heartbreaking news for a species already struggling to survive." She said it's more evidence why the Trump administration authorization of oil and gas activity in Cook Inlet, including seismic airgun blasting, is so reckless.

"These amazing whales already face an onslaught of noise pollution that's threatening their existence. If we're going to save them, our government has to stop handing out permits to harass the whales to oil and gas companies," she said. □



In this July 29, 2019, file photo, a monarch butterfly rests on a plant at Abbott's Mill Nature Center in Milford, Del.

Associated Press

California's monarch butterflies critically low for 2nd year

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— The western monarch butterfly population wintering along California's coast remains critically low for the second year in a row, a count by an environmental group released Thursday showed.

The count of the orange-and-black insects by the Xerces Society, a nonprofit environmental organization that focuses on the conservation of invertebrates, recorded about 29,000 butterflies in its annual survey. That's not much different than last year's tally, when an all-time low 27,000 monarchs were counted.

"We had hoped that the western monarch population would have rebound-

ed at least modestly, but unfortunately it has not," said Emma Pelton, a monarch conservation expert with the Xerces Society.

By comparison, about 4.5 million monarch butterflies wintered in forested groves along the California coast in the 1980s.

Scientists say the butterflies are at critically low levels in the Western United States due to the destruction of their milkweed habitat along their migratory route as housing expands into their territory and use of pesticides and herbicides increases.

Western monarch butterflies head south to California each winter, returning to the same sites and even the same trees where they cluster to keep warm. The

monarchs generally arrive in California at the beginning of November and spread across the country once warmer weather arrives in March.

On the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains, another monarch butterfly population travels from southern Canada and the northeastern United States across thousands of miles to spend the winter in central Mexico. Mexican officials said last year the butterfly population wintering there was rebounding but they have not yet released this year's count.

A 2017 study by Washington State University researchers found the species likely will go extinct in the next few decades if nothing is done to save it. □

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24/7

Author Sandra Cisneros digs in on support of 'American Dirt'

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS**

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— Celebrated Mexican American author Sandra Cisneros is refusing to back down from her support for the novel, "American Dirt," despite outcry from other Latino writers amid charges of stereotypes, and is telling critics they should just calm down and write "poetry." Cisneros told Latino USA host Maria Hinojosa on Wednesday that she appreciated the work by Jeanine Cummins and didn't understand the criticism the novel is facing. The "House on Mango Street" author said many of the places in Mexico that Cummins mentioned were places she'd investigated herself and she found the immigration elements of the story "believable." The novel about a Mexican mother and her young son fleeing to the U.S. border had been praised widely

before its Jan. 21 release and was chosen by Oprah Winfrey for her book club. But Mexican American writers have been among those strongly criticizing "American Dirt" for stereotypical depictions of Mexicans.

Latino critics say "American Dirt" contains stereotypes, incorrect regional slang, and cultural inaccuracies. They also blasted promotions at book release parties that had floral art centerpieces with barbed wire mimicking the border wall. But Cisneros dismissed claims of inaccuracies and generalizations as irrelevant.

"A novel is different from a piece of journalism or a piece of nonfiction," said Cisneros from her home in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. "It has its own engine and it's got to roar from page one, and it did that for me."

Cisneros said she felt Cum-

mins, 45, would reach a different audience who "would be a little suspicious of a Latino surname."

Cisneros' endorsement of Cummins and her refusal to retract her praise of the novel drew heated criticism from Latinos on social media who called one of the nation's most known U.S. Latino writers a "vendida," or sell out.

"I don't need folks in rarefied, remote, hermetic, hermit-like bubbles telling me how I should respond to #AmericanDirt," Mexican American writer David Bowles tweeted.

Asked about the criticism, Cisneros said detractors should think about why they dislike the book and



In this July 27, 2016 file photo, acclaimed Mexican American author Sandra Cisneros points to a photograph by Cecil McDonald, Jr., at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, N.M. at an exhibit based by her 1984 novel "The House On Mango Street."

Associated Press

turn to writing poetry to ease their minds.

Hinojosa also interviewed author Luis Alberto Urrea, whose books Cummins credited with helping her craft the novel. Urrea called "American Dirt" a mishandled and cartoonist

story that amounted to a "minstrel show."

On Wednesday, Flatiron Books publisher of "American Dirt" announced it was canceling the remainder of Cummins promotional tour, citing concerns for her safety. □

UK's health chief slams Gwyneth Paltrow's lifestyle brand

LONDON (AP) — The chief executive of Britain's National Health Service has criticized Gwyneth Paltrow's lifestyle brand Goop and her new Netflix series, warning it carries "considerable risks to health." At an event in Oxford on Thursday, NHS chief Simon Stevens slammed Paltrow's brand for giving prominence to "quacks, charlatans and cranks" in promoting untested treatments like vampire facials and unusually scented candles. "Gwyneth Paltrow's brand peddles 'psychic vampire repellent,' says 'chemical sunscreen is a bad idea,' and promotes colonic irrigation and DIY coffee enema machines," he said, adding British health authorities have issued advice stating there is no scientific evidence to support such claims. Paltrow's six-part series, "The goop lab with Gwyneth Paltrow," was



In this Monday, Oct. 14, 2019 file photo, Gwyneth Paltrow arrives at the 26th annual ELLE Women in Hollywood Celebration in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

recently made available on Netflix in the U.K. Stevens warned about the potential of misinformation to undermine public health, citing the recent surge in measles across Britain. Scientists have attributed the disease's rise in part to falling vaccination rates, first prompted by skepticism about the vaccine suggested in a discredited scientific study in a 1998 medical study that linked the shot to autism. □

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'Hair Love' director wants to win Oscar in honor of Kobe

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Matthew A. Cherry became an Oscar nominee, that was initially good enough for him, until he heard about the death of Kobe Bryant, a former professional athlete — just like himself — who was nominated in the same category in 2018.
 For Cherry, Bryant's death is fueling his desire to win

in an Oscar trophy. The director, who is a former NFL player, could accomplish that feat through "Hair Love," which is nominated for best animated short, a category the NBA legend won for his project "Dear Basketball." The Los Angeles Lakers superstar died in a helicopter crash Sunday involving eight others including his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna. "Hair Love" delves into



This Jan. 27, 2020 photo shows Matthew A. Cherry during a portrait session at the 92nd Academy Awards Nominees Luncheon in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

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a story about an African American father who learns how to style his daughter's hair for the first time. He created the 6-minute film to highlight a black family in animation — which he says is a rarity — provide a positive representation for black kids and normalize black hair.

As a football player, Cherry had stints with several teams including the Jacksonville Jaguars, Cincinnati Bengals, Carolina Panthers and Baltimore Ravens. In a recent interview, he spoke with The Associated Press about continuing Bryant's legacy in film, the importance of short films and dealing with the stereotypes of an athlete transitioning into the industry.

AP: How did Bryant's Oscar win in 2018 inspire you as a filmmaker?

CHERRY: Just knowing it's possible. Sometimes I think people talk about diversity and inclusion. I think the best way for that to make a difference is just to see people that look like you kind of doing jobs you didn't know existed. ... He really just set the bar.

AP: How has Bryant's death impacted you?

CHERRY: I know they say awards don't matter and everything, but I really would love to win, especially since it's the same category. ... I would love to win so I could shout out his name to honor him and

continue his legacy. It's hard as an athlete trying to transition into a different career. So often, you get told to stick to sports. You tell people what you want to do and they're like kind of whatever and brushing you off. I think to make it to this level and being in the same category as him, it's just all really kind of crazy. I really just want to represent for him.

AP: Have you and Bryant ever worked together?

CHERRY: No, actually crazy enough, he shouted us out like two weeks ago when we got the Oscar nomination. Somebody from The Undeclared included us in a tweet. ... He was like 'Let's go!' That was literally his tweet. I had looked forward to meeting him on the circuit. It's just a tragedy.

AP: What was the genesis behind 'Hair Love'?

CHERRY: I came across a lot of viral videos of African American fathers that were doing their daughter's hair, and the numbers were just insane. I was wondering kind of why? Because every time I show and share a mother and a daughter or son, it wouldn't do as well. People looked at it as an anomaly. There's this perception about black men that they're not involved in their kids lives, where studies have actually shown that they're most involved. But if you look at mainstream media, you wouldn't think

that.

AP: Why is 'Hair Love' so important for people to see?

CHERRY: As you know, our hair is often times policed. We can't wear it in certain work environments or certain schools. There's that story about the young gentleman in Houston named DeAndre Arnold who's not able to wear his hair that looks just like mine, because they changed a rule. ... We wanted to normalize us in the experience. It was important to us to showcase a black father that was young, that had tattoos. I think if you saw someone like him on the street, you would assume that wasn't a loving father that does his daughter's hair. We're just trying to change the conversation, one project at a time.

AP: How do you feel seeing the CROWN Act being passed to ban discrimination against black natural hair? (The CROWN Act bans discrimination based on natural hairstyles or texture. It has been passed by California, New Jersey and several local governments and is being considered by other states.)

CHERRY: It's also kind of ironic because, why does a law have to be passed for us to wear our hair, how it grows out of our head naturally? But I'm glad that real change is happening. I hope that this project shines a light on that. □

One hit no more: Persistence pays off for Billy Ray Cyrus

By KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

Most people would say that Billy Ray Cyrus has been lucky to keep finding himself in the middle of massive pop culture moments over this three-decade long career in music and television. Between his auspicious 1992 debut with "Achy Breaky Heart," to starring alongside his daughter Miley in the hit Disney show "Hannah Montana," to finally taking home his first Grammy trophies for an equally goofy and controversial hit "Old Town Road," lightning keeps striking for the Flatwoods, Kentucky, singer and actor. But to the 58-year-old, it's more than luck.

"To me, it was a celebration of persistence, a celebration of not giving up," Cyrus said from his home in Los Angeles, just days after sharing Grammy Awards for best music video and best pop duo/group performance with Atlanta rapper Lil Nas X.

While "Old Town Road" hasn't exactly resulted in a massive resurgence for Cyrus or his own country songs, it has reinvigorated him personally. He's releasing a three-song EP on Friday "The Singin' Hills Sessions Vol. 1 Sunset" and starring alongside Lil Nas X and Sam Elliott in a Super Bowl commercial for Doritos. His awards will be on display at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum starting in March.

"I've got two or three albums in the can and working on something new as we speak," he said. "The door that it really opened was the door inside my mind, the door inside my soul."

He broke out in the early '90s sporting a long brown mullet, torn T-shirts that showed off his muscled arms and basketball sneakers instead of cowboy boots.

Don Von Tress, the songwriter behind "Achy Breaky Heart," didn't meet him until after Cyrus had decided to record the song for his debut album "Some Gave All," which would go



Singer-songwriter Billy Ray Cyrus poses for a portrait with an Ovation guitar presented to him by Neil Diamond in 1992, at his home in Los Angeles on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020.

Associated Press

on to be certified platinum nine times by the Recording Industry Association of America. In the music video, Cyrus swaggers and dances around stage like Elvis, while fans line dance in the crowd.

"Who'd seen or heard anything quite like that at the time?" Tress said. "The chemistry between he and the song were just undeniable."

In what would be a recurrent theme in his life, Cyrus had to deal with the blowback from the immediate worldwide success of "Achy Breaky Heart."

"I was persecuted, because back then country claimed me and then got mad when pop stations started playing it," he said. Like many viral sensations that become omnipresent, the song was panned

by artists and critics alike, but fans loved it. Weird Al Yankovic made a parody of it that asked stations to please stop playing it. Cyrus was nominated for three Grammys, including record of the year, in 1992. He lost, unsurprisingly, to Eric Clapton's "Tears in Heaven," for record of the year.

But "Old Town Road," which combined Lil Nas X rapping about "bull riding and boobies," with a Nine Inch Nails sample and a trap beat, had much longer legs, due to viral memes and the social media platform Tik Tok. It would go on to break the record for most weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100 chart. Cyrus would relive the experience of being shunned again when Billboard decided that Lil Nas X's song wasn't country enough to be included on its country

chart.

"A hit is a hit. And people don't need a critic to tell them what they like," Cyrus said.

Overnight Cyrus went from playing country music festivals to performing with Lil Nas X at Rolling Loud Festival in Miami, popping on stage with Cardi B and playing on the BET Awards. "In the summer of 2019, the world needed a song that everybody could sing together," Cyrus said.

About a month after Cyrus' remix of "Old Town Road" came out, he released "Snake Doctor Circus," an album recorded in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, with Tress, his old friend. Tress said that Cyrus' success came with baggage, whether it was "Achy Breaky Heart" or playing the lovable dad to Miley on screen.

Tress was hoping that the album would show a different side of the star that everyone had preconceptions about. But it failed to chart on Billboard's country albums chart.

"Timing was a little bad for our record because it just got tsunami-ed," Tress admitted.

Cyrus doesn't think too much about whether "Old Town Road" will boost his own career.

"I've learned don't look back. The past does not equal the future," Cyrus said. "I've just found a great deal of excitement in where I'm at right now."

Cyrus has weathered the highs and lows of his career because of his persistence and an unwavering belief that God wants him to entertain people. His new EP has a cover of a Neil Diamond song, "I Am... I Said." It was a Neil Diamond concert that convinced him as a young man to give up his dream of being a Cincinnati Reds baseball player and pursue music instead.

"I felt hands. And they were holding me, saying, 'This is your purpose, Cyrus. You gotta go buy a guitar and start a band,'" he said.

Three decades later, Cyrus said he's happy with what he's been able to achieve, no matter whether he gets awards or recognition.

"Nobody can erase what 'Achy Breaky Heart' did," Cyrus said. "'Old Town Road' speaks for itself."

But now that those gold gramophone trophies have finally arrived, he knows exactly what he's going to do with them.

"I put one to the left of my bed and one to the right and I named them Sheila and Peggy," Cyrus said. "And I sleep in the middle." □



Hotel design trends: Lobbies and rooms with a point of view

By KIM COOK

Designers of hotel spaces have traditionally tended to favor either theatrical flair (baroque finishes and opulent flourishes) or the opposite: a low-key insouciance consisting of neutral, contemporary furniture and acres of beige-ness. That's changing. Now, many designers are looking to the cities and neighborhoods where hotels are located for decorating inspiration. The vibe inside is skewed more "living room" than "lobby." And in the rooms, gallery walls are supplanting generic landscape prints, and there might be the kinds of objets d'art, reading materials and soft furnishings one would have at home.

LET'S ALL GO TO THE LOBBY

"We've heard from our showrooms and exhibitors that they're seeing an uptick in 'softer'-style solutions for spaces like hotel lobbies," says Byron Morton, vice president of leasing for NeoCon, the commercial design industry exhibition held annually in Chicago. "The lobby is increasingly a communal meeting and amenity space rather than just a pass-through."

Tom Parker, co-founder of the design group Fettle, which has offices in London and Los Angeles, says changes in how business travelers work have impacted both the public and private spaces in a hotel.

"New technology has paved the way for the 'gig economy' and freelancing. People are now working flexible hours from locations that suit them. In any given city, the lobby is now the heartbeat of the public areas, filled with people working on their laptops," Parker says.

Fettle blends elements from midcentury, art deco, industrial and British design.

"People want break-out lounge furniture and meeting tables, but when evening rolls around and the laptops are tucked away, the lobby transforms," Parker says.

The company's design for the lobby of the Hoxton



This photo shows the lobby in The Hoxton Hotel in Portland, Ore. London/L.A.-based Fettle designed Portland's Hoxton. Alongside newly-built rooms, public areas were situated in an old converted movie theater. Tailored but comfy mohair and leather seating and warm wood side tables blend with distressed rugs and displays of ceramics, plants and books. Refurbished timber and concrete beams frame the spaces. And there's a great story about the reception area's wood paneling.

Associated Press

Hotel in Portland, Oregon, for example, has a communal work table and a comfortable lounge seating around a fireplace. The public areas were situated in an old, converted movie theater. Tailored but comfy mohair and leather seating and warm wood side tables blend with distressed rugs and displays of ceramics, plants and books. Refurbished timber and concrete beams frame the spaces. And there's a story about the reception area's wood paneling.

"We used a lot of local suppliers and material for this

project," Parker says. "The area around Portland is a big producer of Maraschino cherries; the visible face of the wall is made from the outside of reclaimed cherry vats. If you look closely you can even see the imprints where the metal belts that hold the huge vats together were pressed against the wood."

In many hotels, Parker notes, "It's not just hotel guests who are using them, but the locals who come to work in these spaces."

Paul Makovsky, editor in chief for Contract, a magazine focused on commer-

cial interior design and architecture, says this mix of workspace and hospitality is being called "corporatality."

Hotel chain CitizenM on Manhattan's Lower East Side uses the tagline, "You may not be a New York native, but you can feel like one here." Colorful lounge chairs face a soaring shelf wall filled with eclectic curios, art and books.

In Scotland, Glasgow's Motel One is next to the main railway station, which takes passengers into the Scottish Highlands. The hotel commissioned oversize images

from photographers Louise Scullion and Matthew Dalziel, who rode the route shooting atmospheric, romantic pictures of scenery, shaggy cows and travelers. The chain's interior designer Katharina Schmidt used the photos in both private and public spaces, adding wooly sheep stools, tartan-covered modern chairs, displays of vintage hatboxes and trains, and pendant lights evoking crystal-cut whiskey glasses.

At Motel One's property in Zurich, Switzerland, brown and tan leather furniture and padded wallcoverings suggest luscious Swiss chocolates, while the lake outdoors is evoked with brass boat propellers, porthole mirrors and wallpaper printed with puffy white clouds.

In Manchester, England, the area's history as a yarn and textile marketplace informed Motel One's design; Schmidt commissioned artist Andy Singleton to create sculptures inspired by spools of yarn and fabric. Ceiling lights by Arturo Alvarez resemble cotton bolls.

At the 1 Hotel in West Hollywood, California, RCH Studios extended the interior space to an "outdoor lobby." Hiking trails next to the hotel were the inspiration; guests can explore a granite pathway that meanders through native greenery. Log seating and timber planters were made from salvaged, fallen trees.

ROOMS AT THE INN

High-speed internet has become more important than a work desk in today's hotel rooms, says Parker. With lighter, thinner tech, we can work in different positions. So, there's more lounge furniture and fewer desks, along with charging capabilities in table and sofa bases.

Some hotels are also responding to the self-care trend, says Makovsky. Equinox's hotel rooms in New York, L.A. and Chicago feature dark, moody atmospheres with soothing acoustics, proprietary mattresses, and relaxation and sleep programs. □



This undated photo provided by 1 Hotel in West Hollywood, Calif., shows an extension of the hotel's interior space that they are calling the "outdoor lobby." The Hollywood Hills hiking trails next to the hotel were the inspiration; guests can explore a granite pathway that meanders through a 'canyon' of native greenery. Log seating and timber planters were created from salvaged Los Angeles-area fallen trees.

Associated Press